

世直し 暗黒界の 魔王三姫 人間好きすぎて 人間に転生した

2

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瀬菜モナコ



World Reformation Activities of the Dark God — Loving Humans So Much, I Reincarnated in One —

Arc 2: Water Hero

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Chapter 31: The curtains rise to the interaction of humans

I am Kuromiya Haine, the reincarnation of the Dark God Entropy.

In order to restore the friendship of the light hero Kourin Karen-san and the fire hero Katack Mirack, I acted out of the atmosphere and tension, and ended up creating a turmoil.

Because of it, I met the Light Goddess, Inflation, and the Fire God, Nova, again.

The schemes of those Gods...that's something I can't just shut my eyes to, but for now, I will put it aside.

The reason is...because of those sequence of events, I am currently...

"What are you? Go ahead and say it."

"Yes, I am an escapee!!" (Haine)

Facing my biggest pinch after entering the Light Church after all.

The amazon woman that's standing right in front of me, Angan Regine. The head chef of the Light Church's kitchen.

She is my direct superior. I was sent to do miscellaneous work after failing the entrance exam and ended up working in the kitchen.

But in my time here, I was dragged out by Karen-san and went to subjugate the fire cow. My time in the actual headquarters has been short, and the way it was reflected in the eyes of Regine-san was...

"I really hate people that make light of their work." (Regine)

And so, that's how it is.

I am a person that has been absent without notice these last few days, and right at this moment, I am being scolded.

Since the time I was tied up, hung upside-down, and punched around three times, my memory has been hazy.

"Wait! Wait please, Regine-neesan! There's an incredibly deep reason for this!!"

My comrade Frost is clinging onto her and trying to stop her.

He really is a nice guy. The sad part is that it isn't helping a single bit in stopping Regine-san.

"Whether he has a reason or not, it doesn't matter. The problem is that this beansprout made light of the kitchen work, and he angered me. That's all there's to it." (Regine)

"No, that's not it-ssu yo! If you hear him out, you will definitely understand-ssu! That's why, please hear him out!" (Frost)

At this rate, I will definitely be killed by Regine-san.

Even though I didn't have such a clear image of death when I was fighting the fire cow Phalaris -the Fire God Nova-, for some reason, when the opponent is Regine-san, I do see it.

But my fate doesn't end here.

If vice-captain Grades comes, he should be able to manage something out. He is the vice-captain of the Aurora Knight corps after all. Even someone like Regine-san would most likely listen to a person of his class.

Vice-captain Grades should know about a variety of things, and he shows his face a decent amount of times in the kitchen, so if he heard about this uproar, he should be...

"Wait a moment, Miss Regine! Like I have been saying, please listen to what I have to say. Haine was absent because of unavoidable circumstances. I will explain it, so please, stop punching him!!"

"Out of the way, vice-captain Grades." (Regine)

I am done for.

Now that I look properly, at Regine-san's right leg, there's Frost; at her left leg, there's vice-captain Grades. But they are unable to stop Regine-san at all.

Or more like, if even a vice-captain of the knight corps can't stop Regine-san,

just how much of an amazoness is she?

"The guys that have a contemptuous attitude like 'it is only cooking' I have - without exception-sunk them in the sink. Are you saying this job is plain and stupid compared to being a knight? But you see, I am doing that job more seriously than anyone else. Whether it is the vice-captain or the captain, I have no intentions of letting them get in the way." (Regine)

I am already on a sure path to being punched till death.

'Mother, Father, I am sorry for not being able to come back'...is what I was thinking, when...

"In that case, I will be the one getting in the way."

A new person appears in the kitchen.

And this person was so unexpected that everyone who saw that person raised voices of surprise.

"Hero-sama?!" "Hero-sama?!" Hero Karen-sama?"

The light hero, Karen-san.

'What is the representative of the church doing in this kind of place?', is what would normally cross one's mind, but there's no other reason but me.

Karen-san confirms my hung upside-down state. And then, she saw the figure of Regine-san being clung onto by two people and soon understood the situation.

"Regine-san, I am truly sorry." (Karen)

Saying this, she lowers her head deeply.

With only that, everyone in the place was overwhelmed.

"I was the one who dragged Haine-san out while he was in the middle of his work. The assistance of Haine-san was necessary. If you are to blame someone, please blame me." (Karen)

"Then...!" (Regine)

As expected, even Regine-san isn't that brash as to talk big when the hero is lowering her head.

She falters and is at a loss of words.

“Haine-san is a necessary talent for the future of the light church. I have no intentions of looking down on your job but, can you please hand over Haine-san to us on that basis?” (Karen)

“...Can’t be helped.” (Regine)

That scary pressure draws back as if it had been a lie.

“Being asked by the light hero, I can’t just say no. This is the light church’s kitchen after all.” (Regine)

“Thank you very much!” (Karen)

Karen-san turns towards me who was in joy and unsheathes her holy sword.

With one swing of that holy sword, the rope that was tying me was cut down.

“Wa!”

Of course, there wasn’t a single wound in my body even when the rope was tied tightly around my body.

It would be unthinkable, but at times, Karen-san is plain scary.

“Then, I will be taking Haine-san with me! Thank you very much for everything until now!” (Karen)

“Wa?!”

With those words, I was dragged out from the kitchen.

And then, from there on, there was never a second time I would be stepping in this kitchen as an apprentice cook.

Chapter 32: Conferring of Decorations

"Me as a knight?"

The first matter I was told about after being taken away by Karen-san was that.

"Knight as in...a knight of the Aurora Knight corps, right?" (Haine)

"Yes. I have not heard of other knight corps here after all." (Karen)

"That's not what I am trying to say. What I mean is, is it okay? I don't have a single drop of light element, you know." (Haine)

"That's fine. In the first place, it is strange to decide the fighting personnel on only the element. If there's an element number that's higher than light, it would be better to have them go to their respective church and show their strength there. That would help everyone, and yet, 'increasing the military power of other churches is a no', is the kind of reason they use to keep them in place!" (Karen)

I did think that was the case but, it seems that really was the reason why the people who failed the exam were made to work in miscellaneous jobs and being kept here.

"But there's currently no church that is related to Haine-san's dark element, that's why, it is better to have you work here—Ah, oops." (Karen)

Karen-san places her hand on her mouth as if she just remembered something.

"This was still supposed to be a secret." (Karen)

Right.

I don't know how to announce to the world the existence of the Dark God, and it has been 1,600 years since those damn five Gods sealed me. Rather than saying me, my very existence as a Dark God completely disappeared from history.

Compared to the other Gods that have created churches and are worshipped

by the humans, I am in a situation where my existence is not even known.

“I am thinking about tackling some old books in order to investigate the details of this Dark God! If the existence of a sixth God of Creation is confirmed, it will definitely become big news!” (Karen)

“Eh?”

Why is Karen-san in such high tension?

“Ah sorry, I derailed the conversation. We were in the middle of our talk about Haine-san joining the knights.”

She derailed the conversation herself, and she returned it to its trajectory herself. This tension really is abnormal.

“At any rate, Haine-san joining the knights is something that the Founder-sama already allowed to begin with, so no one will be able to complain -even if that person is the Knight Commander.” (Karen)

“Ah, that person...I feel like he would reeaally want to complain though...”
(Haine)

“Yes, but we won’t allow him to!” (Karen)

“You are in perfect form huh, Karen-san.” (Haine)

“And so, about the post you will be taking, Haine-san...” (Karen)

Hero’s assistant.

“A thing like that was newly established.” (Karen)

“Hero’s assistant, huh.” (Haine)

“With Haine-san’s specialty, it would be hard to get used to the normal missions of the Knight corps, and most importantly, I scouted Haine-san to do things normal knights wouldn’t be able to do anyways! If we don’t create a new post for the sake of that, it wouldn’t be effective!” (Karen)

“Ah, now that you say it, there was that.” (Haine)

“Most of the job is just as the name states, assisting the hero which is me. Since this a unique post, there’s quite the extensive authority to it. The treatment will be like that of a vice-captain. But the only ones you have to obey

orders from are the Founder and I, and in principle, it is okay to not obey even the Knight Commander.” (Karen)

That’s good to hear.

“You can’t have direct subordinates, but in emergencies, you can be given the commanding rights to a platoon. For now, this much is what has been stipulated, but from now on, depending on the needs, we intend to increase the authority even more!” (Karen)

“Why are you filled with so much ambition? I want to live as peacefully as possible you know...” (Haine)

“That’s because...!” (Karen)

Karen-san suddenly holds my hands. She holds both of my hands tightly.

“I...want to change this world. Into a world where people don’t have to get attacked by monsters; a world where we can live at ease. Even when I became a light hero, things didn’t go as I wanted. But I thought about doing what I could and mixed in with the recruitment group, in order to search for a person that could be of help.” (Karen)

And so, she met me huh.

“If it’s Haine-san, he will fight together with me’, that’s what I thought. But Haine-san, you surpassed by lengths-and-bounds my expectations; you were amazing. You confronted the Knight Commander face to face, fixed my friendship with Mirack-chan, the power you have is incredible, and even the Founder-sama is completely cooperating with Haine-san...” (Karen)

The Founder Yorishiro has some special circumstances regarding me though...

“At this point, I don’t even know who is the one standing at the front anymore. I once again ask of you. Can you please help me make this world better?” (Karen)

Karen-san asks this with slight uneasiness.

From the high tension just now, it suddenly went to a gloom one. It is only proof that she can think of other people’s feelings.

“...”

I bent my knees and knelt in front of Karen-san.

"If I am to become a knight, I would need a knighting ceremony, right?"
(Haine)

"Haine-san..." (Karen)

"Kuromiya Haine humbly accepts the post of hero assistant. Uhm...I swear by this sword?" (Haine)

I said whatever knight-like thing came to mind.

Karen-san simply looked happy, and a single tear flowed down her eyes.

Chapter 33: Raid of a spoiled brat

Having become a knight officially, there were a number of people I had to show my face to.

“Let me say this first.”

One of those was the founder of the Light Church, Yorishiro.

“If there’s a situation where one had to die between Haine-san and the Knight Commander, I will have the Knight Commander die without a second thought.”
(Yorishiro)

“Founder-sama?!” (Who was this guy again?)

“Please talk to him with that in mind.” (Yorishiro)

Not only was it a preemptive punch, it was an ultimate attack that hit the Knight Commander Dobbe.

While looking daunted, the eyes that were directed at me were dyed in hatred.

“No matter what’s said, I won’t consent! Creating a post that is estranged from the line of command inside the knight corps is just something that will disturb the order!” (Dobbe)

Since he is the Knight Commander, he must be the highest person in the knight corps.

This is not the first time we meet. This guy was the one who was unfavorably blaming Karen-san the moment she just returned from her monster subjugation.

He really is the top at complaining about what others do.

That’s why, I just respond with the feeling of throwing a ball.

“Then, is this thing called ‘order’ properly serving in some way to the knight corps? From what I have seen, it has only been of use for a really limited number of people inside the knight corps.” (Haine)

“What did you say?!”

“If the reason for having incompetent people at the top is ‘order’, it would be better to just dispose of it.” (Haine)

“You bastard!!”

The Knight Commander looked as if he would unsheathe his sword at any moment.

“Founder-sama! As I thought, I am completely against having this garbage enter the proud Aurora Knight corps!! It would disturb the order of the knight corps!”

“Knight Commander, this is a settled matter.” (Yorishiro)

Even when the Founder asserted it, the Knight Commander didn’t step back.

“Listen here! In the recent years, the hands of us Aurora Knight corps have been completely filled with this way too wild and free hero! Just how much time do you think it took to teach that whimful girl the ABC’s of order and to obey her superiors?! In this time when she is finally beginning to show the results of her lessons, if we were to accept a fool like this, it would all go down the drain!”

“Hey, you—!!” (Haine)

“But, Haine-san has shown results.” (Yorishiro)

Yorishiro interrupted me as I was about to object on the abusive words the Knight Commander was throwing on Karen-san.

“There’s the sweeping of the Pythonflies at the Trixia Forest, of course, and there’s also the gigantic monster that has been troubling the Fire Church for a long time, the fire cow Phalaris. It is a fact that Haine-san served as a force in that joint subjugation.” (Yorishiro)

“That’s not true! That was an individual subjugation by us Aurora Knight corps!”

Hey hey, you...

“No doubt about it! The gigantic monster was brought down by the light hero

Karen alone! The fire hero was only going in circles around the place, and then acted as if she also deserved the merit in this!"

This man...can he only interpret all things in a way that's convenient for him?

Now that I think about it, in the matter with the Pythonflies, he was throwing a racket by saying it was a 'BIG failure!', but wasn't he just happy he was able to obtain material to attack Karen-san?

"Then, are you saying this matter of the fire cow Phalaris was an achievement from the hero Karen-san?" (Haine)

"No. Whatever the case, she acted without the orders of the knight corps, an inexcusable act by a hero. I am on the intend to properly press the responsibility of this! From here on, no matter what is to be done, the hero will have to follow the orders of the knight corp—!"

"Just stop it already." (Haine)

I pin down the voice of the Knight Commander that had become sharp and sour.

That must have worked. The person in question stiffened his face and looked back at me.

"I became a hero assistant exactly to stop those kind of things. I will clearly say this. Now that I am here, I will not let Karen-san be ordered around on your own convenience. I won't let Karen-san become your puppet. Remember that." (Haine)

"What did you say, you impudent brat?!"

Knight Commander Dobbe finally unsheathed his sword and points it towards me.

"Right this instant, I will have you apologize for the many disrespectful actions you have committed, and have you relinquish your seat as a knight! If you do that, I will at least spare your life!!"

"Ah? What are you saying? After unsheathing your sword, what comes next is attacking me, right? Come at me." (Haine)

"Eh?"

Was he thinking I would be scared after getting threatened with a weapon?

Seeing me prepared to go at it, the Knight Commander was bewildered since he didn't expect this.

"D-Do you think this is just a threat? How stupid. By the time I slice you in two, it will be too late!"

"There's no way a weak posture like that will be able to slice a body in two. Don't worry, I intend to settle it with just beating you up until your face swells." (Haine)

"Whatever the case..."

The voice of a beautiful woman stops us both.

Well, it is more like, the Knight Commander felt weak on his knees the moment he heard that voice though.

"In front of this founder of the Light Church, Yorishiro, bloodshed won't be forgiven. Haine-san, bear this in mind." (Yorishiro)

"Yeah yeah." (Haine)

"Knight Commander Dobbe as well, don't forget what I said a moment ago. If you can't accept Haine-san no matter what, it just means that you will have to leave the knight corps. The reform plan I had you formulate last time, how is the progress?" (Yorishiro)

"!!"

Her last words became the finishing blow and made the Knight Commander tremble in silence.

His face was bright red in anger.

Well, in this case, the fact that the highest authority in the Church is standing as my ally serves as a big factor.

Founder Yorishiro; the reincarnation of the Light Goddess, Inflation.

An owner of scary attachment that pursued me by reincarnating the moment she knew I -the Dark God-would be reincarnating. Putting it bluntly, she is scary. Is it really okay to rely on her only in these moments?

“But Haine-san...” (Yorishiro)

Hm?

“It is also true that Haine-san has become a member of the knight corps. In my opinion, I would like it if you two didn’t fight each other, but instead, acted together in order to make the knight corps a better place.” (Yorishiro)

Eh?

“And so, I will be giving a personal mission to Haine-san. Please accept it. Karen-san is not the only person you have a duty to follow orders from; you will obviously obey me as well, the top authority of the Light Church, right?”
(Yorishiro)

For some reason, an ominous wind is blowing.

Chapter 34: What the knight corp means

And so, the mission that was given to me by Yorishiro was...

Experience a normal mission of the knights.

"That's great~~! It is truly great that it wasn't a super unreasonable mission!!"
(Haine)

We are talking about that Yorishiro after all; the Light Goddess, Inflation.

Being under a woman that would easily say things like: 'spend the whole night with me', might have been a scary mistake from me.

"Well, she is currently a human as well. She can understand the rules of society....right?!" (Haine)

The mission that was given to me this time is one that is truly logical after all.

"Even if you are the assistant of the hero and only move for the sake of the hero, coordination with the knight corps will be necessary for sure. For that sake, it is important to understand each other. I will have Haine-san work as a member of one platoon in the knight corps and have you experience their work", is what she said.

On the other hand, the hero Karen-san having an assistant made people think that the 'authority of the hero has been strengthened'. Having that assistant under the command of the knight corps itself for a period of time also holds the objective of softening the discontent of the Knight Commander and the people in the anti-hero faction.

It is the so called 'political decision'.

Karen-san, who heard of this later, reluctantly accepted.

The Aurora Knight corps have divided factions between the hero and the knight commander, and antagonism is beginning to surface.

At this rate, our efforts of having an alliance with the fire hero will prove pointless. That alliance they have is currently an individual alliance between the heroes themselves. The churches are still not getting along with each other.

In this reformation that Karen-san is aiming for in order to protect the people from monsters, it would be necessary to reform the knight corps as well.

For the sake of that, it wouldn't be a bad beginning to learn about them first.

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"And so, I am looking forward to working with you."

"What's with that 'and so'?"

The one who received me the next morning at the knight corps' station was a person I know.

Captain Vesage.

The person that was recruiting newbies at my village.

"Looks like we meet again. Thanks for last time." (Haine)

"I thought we wouldn't meet again though! When I heard you failed the entrance exam and were send to the kitchen, I don't even know how long I applauded! And yet, in this short amount of time!!! Moreover, a special post that receives the treatment of a vice-captain?!"

"It is so hectic that you just get lost, right?" (Haine)

"Are you making fun of me who took 5 years to become a captain?!"

I don't know why, but he got pissed.

Really, a person that doesn't have any self-control.

"But well, since it is a mission, it can't be helped. Assistant Kuromiya Haine, in these few days, you will enter my knight corp and learn the basics. In that time, you will be under my command. No objections to that, right?"

"None~~" (Haine)

"Damn it!! Well, fine. First of all, I will explain you the origins of the Aurora Knight corps."

Eh? We are beginning from there?

Looks like he has more integrity than I expected.

"This is a standard thing to know but, we -Aurora Knight corps-serve as the

military force of the Light Church. In the other lands, there's the: Fire, Water, Earth, and Wind Churches who have a similar military force, and they fight in order to protect the church."

"Are they like the Ignis Militant corps of the Fire Church?" (Haine)

"That's right. Aside from that, there's also: the Wind Church's Whirlwind Raid corps, the Water Church's Stream Marine corps, and the Earth Church's Scorched Earth Annihilation corps. Each one was respectively created at the same time the church was established. At a long past before the appearance of monsters, there was a period when these military forces acted in order to maintain the authority of the church, and also had wars with each other."

"There really was such a period?" (Haine)

"Because of the long warring times, exhaustion came in, and at the same as the discovery of ethereal, monsters began appearing, so the churches entered little by little into an armistice. But the competition of keeping each other in check still continues. Because of the growth of the ethereal machinery, the scramble for the ever decreasing believers is intensifying after all."

I see. So there was a period like that.

In the 1,600 years that I was sealed, there were also turbulent times.

And at the center of it, there were the 5 churches...can't help but feel like those five Gods have something to do with it.

I will try asking Yorishiro or that shitty cow later.

"Well, right now, humans are mostly occupied with the monster threat, so there's practically no fights between humans. If I had to choose, I would say it is peaceful. In that point, we have to be grateful for the monsters, I suppose?"

"So, the knight corps' job is mainly subjugating monsters?" (Haine)

"No. It is not like monsters appear all day long. Our number one job is to train in case of an emergency. Training your body is a given, but we can't neglect the mental training to control the light divine power. Even if it's not on the level of the hero Karen-sama, the 'Holy Light Bullet' that us Aurora Knights shoot is a deadly weapon against monsters."

“Ah, but that didn’t work against me at all...” (Haine)

“Well, excuse me for lacking in training!!” (Vesage) <Okay, you deserve your name parenthesis.>

Monsters are pseudo-living beings that were created by the distorted divine providence of the Gods.

That pseudo-body of theirs that was created by hardening divine power can easily be destroyed by attacking it with divine power.

...It is on a level of ‘easier than punching it’ though.

There’s exceptions as well. The fire cow Phalaris was exactly an example of that. The steel skin that was created by condensing the divine power to its very limits would not be possible to destroy unless it is quite the strong divine power, and trying to do it physically would be even more difficult.

When fighting against something like that, the difference between a normal knight and a hero is shown.

“Then, today we will be training?” (Haine)

“That’s fine as well, but since we have assistant-dono here learning, it would be better to show you a more substantial work.” (Vesage)

Saying this, Captain Vesage showed me his characteristic smile.

“Even in this peaceful times, there’s work that we can do for the sake of peace. Different from the visible dangers like monsters, we are going to pluck out small dangers. It is plain and monotonous, but even so, it is a job that can’t be neglected. That is...!” (Vesage)

“Oooh, that is...?!” (Haine)

“That’s...Idol Hunting!!” (Vesage)

“...Uhm, sorry. Can you repeat that?” (Haine)

“Idol Hunting!!” (Vesage)

Chapter 35: Idol Hunting!

“Nooo~~!! Don’t take it awaaay!! My treasured items, don’t steal my Celestian goods!!”

“Shut up, you damn heretic! Posters! Trading cards! Photo collection! Even the debut songs and newest songs...there’s figurines as well?! Isn’t this all highest grade heretic material?!” (Vesage)

I don’t understand this well...

From inside the house that captain Vesage intruded in, there were things that I haven’t seen before being confiscated one by one.

The owner of the house that seems to be a male of around 20 years old was protesting as he cried, but captain Vesage was not paying him any attention.

To summarize...I don’t understand anything at all.

“Captain! Have a look at this!”

A knight that was searching the premises along with Vesage was agitated.

“This is...! A live stage limited printout?! That means, you bastard...you participated in the live?!” (Vesage)

“That’s not it...! This is something I bought from a comrade Celestian fan! But it is a treasured item, please give it back!!”

“Not only an heretic but illegal dealings as well?! Looks like there’s even more reason to confiscate it! At this rate, there’s probably more to be found here! Even if you have to rip off the alcove slabs, search every nook and cranny!”
(Vesage)

“Roger, Captain!!”

Looks like his subordinates are filled with motivation.

Now then, it is about time to...

“...Captain Vesage...” (Haine)

“Anyways, what an unbelievable amount of material. Looks like this will

become the best mountain of things I have confiscated!” (Vesage)

“Captain Vesage...” (Haine)

“Search more! ...Wait! This is!! A membership card of the Celes-tan fan club?!” (Vesage)

“Oi, Vesage.” (Haine)

“Hahaha! Finally, undeniable proof has come to light! You damn heretic! Capture him! I will have this guy spit out everything he knows about this fan club!” (Vesage)

“...”

I was getting pissed, so I aimed at the knees of Vesage and kicked him.

“Gohoo?! Ouch! What are you doing assistant Haine?! Are you going to interfere with our mission?!” (Vesage)

“What part of this is a mission? To me, it only looks like you are invading the house of an innocent person and messing up his room though?” (Haine)

“What are you saying?! This and that as well! It is filled with idol goods to the point that he can’t make any excuses! Moreover, their preservation state is super high!” (Vesage)

Saying this, he pushes onto me one after the other those unknown things that they have been digging up like crazy for a while now.

“With the growth of ethereal machines, this kind of things are now easy to produce and distribute! Photos, records, printed goods! All of these are heretic items that corrupt humans! By combining the fearsome element called ‘Idol’ into it!!” (Vesage)

“No well, as I have been saying...what in the world is an ‘idol’?” (Haine)

“Hah?” “Hah?” “Hah?”

Every single person in this place went ‘hah?’.

Not only Vesage and his subordinates, even the victim as well.

“Assistant Haine.....you...don’t know about idols?” (Vesage)

“Stop with those pitying eyes.” (Haine)

“W-Well, you are a country bumpkin that just got here a few days ago after all. It can’t be helped that you don’t know. Then, I will personally teach you! You see, idols are...!” (Vesage)

“Idols are’?” (Haine)

“...Girls.” (Vesage)

As I thought, I don’t understand.

“Girls are...idols? Then idols are everywhe—” (Haine)

“You fool! Don’t put Celes-tan in the same standing as those common women out there! You see, Idols are...cute and beautiful girls!!” (Vesage)

“...Even so...aren’t there quite a good amount of them here and there? Karen-san is also on the cute and beautiful side after all...” (Haine)

“Gubooooo!!” (Vesage)

Vesage suddenly collapsed?!

“Haine, you bastard!” (Vesage)

And then got up?!

“An idol Karen-sama...just how fearsome of a thing have you imagined! I was about to lose consciousness there!” (Vesage)

“For a while now, I have begun wondering if Captain Vesage is a person of a different world though...” (Haine)

“I get it. I admit that my explanation was lacking. With that in consideration... if I had to explain in more detail...idols are...cute girls that dance and sing.” (Vesage)

“Like the dancers at the bars? Or those troupes?” (Haine)

In the time I lived in the village, I have seen it a number of times when I was accompanying father to the neighboring town. And in the villages that have festivals, there was a time when a troupe came.

When I remembered this and tried saying it...

"Don't put Celes-tan on the same level as those rundown entertainers! I will beat you up!!!" (Vesage)

"Shut up! Don't make fun of others' jobs!" (Haine)

I didn't understand even more now.

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It took several minutes more to tie up the situation.

"...In other words...idols are young girls that revitalize people with their appeal and do that as their job? And so, as a part of it, they sing and dance?" (Haine)

"...L-Let's leave it at that. Why is it so tiring to explain just that?" (Vesage)

That's what I want to say.

The knights and even the owner of the house were collapsed on the floor with the same tired faces.

"...But why are the knight corps supervising this? From what I hear, it is a terribly good job. They revitalize people, right?" (Haine)

"That's the problem! You see, Celes-tan is...a powerful idol that can revitalize all the people in the world! That's why she is a scary enemy of us, the Light Church!" (Vesage)

"Hah?"

Or more like, Captain Vesage, I feel like for a while now, you have been the one that has been the most passionate about this Celes-tan person.

...Uhm...Is Celes-tan the name of the idol?

For a while now, it has been 'Celes-tan' 'Celes-tan' and it is getting annoying.

"But, why does revitalizing all the people in the world make her an enemy of the Light Church? Are you afraid she will steal away your believers?" (Haine)

"That's right. That's exactly how it is!" (Vesage)

"Eh?"

"If Celes-tan was only a normal idol to the very core of the word, there would

be no problem! But that's not the case. Celes-tan -real name, Celestis-chan- has one other face!" (Vesage)

The number one most important truth was announced here.

"Celestis-chan is the water hero!!" (Vesage)

Chapter 36: Idol Hero

“...I know her, the water hero, Celestis-chan.”

When I returned to the Light Church, I report to Karen-san about what happened today.

Karen-san answered with a bitter smile.

“She is an incredible person, right? She fights monsters as a hero and also works as an... idol, was it? The job that you sing and show people your dancing, right? I really respect her.” (Karen)

“Hmph, what she is doing is not such a admirable thing like that.” (Mirack)

At the side of Karen-san, there’s Mirack that’s irritated as she fans her tea.

That’s right, that Mirack.

“What they are aiming for is something more sly and wretched than that. It amazes me just how stupid men are for being deceived by that surface cuteness without knowing anything.” (Mirack)

“Uhm...Mirack-san?” (Haine)

“What?” (Mirack)

The fire hero, Katack Mirack, answers.

“You are acting as if it’s extremely natural to be here but...what’s going on? This is the Light Church, you know?” (Haine)

Your headquarters are at the neighboring land, you know?

“Are you an idiot? Karen and I have formed a official alliance. For the sake of information exchange, isn’t it a given that we would be meeting at least once a month?” (Mirack)

“But Mirack-chan, you came yesterday as well...” (Karen)

“Of course I did!” (Mirack)

She vigorously washed away the retort of Karen-san.

"If we are talking about incredible, Mirack-chan is also incredible, you know Haine-san. Since we joined forces, she segmented the light and fire land in detail, and decided on how to cover those areas with the two of us. She is also actively seeking for training in combining elements." (Karen)

Eh?

This girl that was shouting repeatedly that 'all heroes aside from me are enemies' not that long ago?

"What? Do you have a problem?" (Mirack)

"No, not really. Mirack-san has cute parts as well huh." (Haine)

"Those words, I will take them as a declaration of war." (Mirack)

Well, it is a good thing that the two who were in a stormy relationship are now able to get along like in the past.

"Anyways! About the talk of the water hero Celestis, even within the heroes, she is one of the foulest women!" (Mirack)

Looks like the fire hero still has more bones to pick.

"Why? Is working as an idol that bad?" (Haine)

"Haine, you are unexpectedly sharp so you must have already noticed but, advertising the church is a part of the activities of us heroes." (Mirack)

"Well, yeah." (Haine)

If the hero holds the standard of the church and defeats monsters, the good will of the populace will incline to their favor.

"The idol work of Celestis is something that radically increases that point of a hero. If we digest what an idol is, it is a popularity job. They make the people themselves as their advertising signs. Celestis promotes herself as a hero via her work as an idol. She is increasing the worth of the Water Church's standard." (Mirack)

"That's...in order to increase the amount of believers in the Water Church?" (Haine)

"Of course. And in reality, there's certainly fans of Celestis who have joined

the Water Church just like that. Moreover, rumors say that it is quite the number.” (Mirack)

Seriously?!

It is true that when I look at Karen-san and Mirack, I can understand that the heroes are the face and standard bearers of the church.

But the water hero Celestis didn’t stop with that, she went further ahead and increased her worth to get more believers. So that’s what an idol is?

“In truth, I understand why captain Vesage and the others are getting neurotic about this. Not only that person’s headquarters, the Water capital, Hydra Ville <ハイドライヴィレッジ>, even in the far away Apollon City, her popularity has spread.” (Mirack)

“So that means, Water Church believers might appear right under the nose of the Light Church huh.” (Haine)

Hearing that, I began feeling that was incredibly bad.

“Within the five Churches, there’s a number of agreements made. Forbidding the creation of ethereal weapons is one of them, but the other important agreement is that it is prohibited to do any proselytizing activities at the headquarters of the other churches.” (Mirack)

Well, that’s a given.

The five Churches scramble for the limited amount of believers, in other words, they are business rivals. If a rival were to begin doing business at your garden, that’s akin to picking a fight and would definitely develop into one.

“As long as the Water Church is able to obtain believers at a high efficiency with the Celestis fans, the work of Celestis as an idol is akin to proselytizing. And her popularity has reached Apollon City and even my Muspelheim as well. People in these places become fans of Celestis. And if she gets fans and they enter the Water Church...” (Mirack)

“It would be a legitimate breach of the agreement.” (Haine)

“That’s right. But as of now, the other churches are still lacking a way to attack this breach. No matter what’s said, there’s no proving that idol activities

are the same as proselytizing activities after all.” (Mirack)

‘I have also heard about it’, is what Karen-san said as she takes over on the explanation.

“The ones that are actually spreading the word of Celestis-san are the newspaper reporters, and those...’idol goods’, was it? The ones who bring in those idol goods are merchants specialized in that area. It is not like a legitimate member of the Church was involved in it, so it doesn’t enter into the grounds of proselytizing, they say.” (Karen)

“Our Fire Church has also sent numerous objections, but they used the same logic to deftly avoid it. In the end, the best countermeasure of it for now is just as you have witnessed today, stepping into the houses inside the city and confiscate the items related to Celestis. Hard to call that an effective method.” (Mirack)

That stupid-sounding exchange we had a while ago was actually part of a ploy that surrounds a secret feud of the five Churches?

I tried unfolding the poster I had in my right hand.

A confiscated good in today’s idol hunt. This idol poster (in preserved state) I managed to somehow pilfer.

Chapter 37: Holy Woman's jealousy

"Hm? That's..."

The first one to notice what I was doing was Mirack.

She moved from behind me and looks at the spread out poster.

"...It is kind of a sparkly woman that makes my eyes hurt." (Haine)

Those were my impressions after seeing the idol water hero Celestis.

"She is apparently a super popular idol that's corroding the five Churches, you know." (Karen)

"Seriously, how deplorable. What's with this incredibly deep slit? Wouldn't that show your panties?! Dirty!" (Mirack)

"But...if it is to this point that makes it almost possible to see, your eyes just end up going there even if you don't want to. In that sense, they understand the instincts of a man." (Haine)

"Men are dirty!" (Mirack)

"Then Mirack-san as well, stop wearing that outfit that shows so much cleavage." (Haine)

The water hero that's in this poster is, as expected, a young girl that's around 15 years old. How to say it, she is a glittering type of beauty.

In that sense, Karen-san and Mirack, who are beauties as well, are different types. Her radiant smile had enough impact it felt like it was punching right through the poster.

"Her clothes and accessories are all cold colors and well put together." (Haine)

"She is probably conscious that she is a hero at the very least. Blue is the symbol color of the Water Church after all." (Mirack)

"Is that also a thing? Well, in the case of this girl, the cloth material is gleaming and makes you more conscious of her body figure." (Haine)

“You are really looking carefully, how lascivious.” (Mirack)

“Her arms and legs are in good form, but her breast are bigger than normal, and her curves are drawing a beautiful line...or more like, the guy who took the photo was definitely aiming for this effect.” (Haine)

“You are already closing the line of being disgusting, you know?” (Mirack)

“Is that so? But it is something that was calculated to make you see it this way so... Ah...” (Haine)

The poster was suddenly taken away from me.

When I look up in surprise, I see that the culprit of stealing away the poster from me was Karen-san.

“Karen-san?” (Haine)

“...”

Karen-san silently walks away with the poster in her hands...is what I thought, but the place Karen-san headed to didn't have a door for her to leave, or even a window, just a wall.

What is she going to do in a place like th—oh, Karen-san spreads the poster on that wall that has nothing and pushes thumb tacks on all four corners to fix it in place.

Well, posters are originally for that though.

“Karen-san, what are you doing?” (Haine)

“Haine-san, please come here.” (Karen)

“Yes!” (Haine)

The tone of Karen-san was the same as always, but she had some sort of intensity that told me she wouldn't take a no for an answer.

I walk to the front of the wall where the poster is placed at.

And so...

“Please touch it.” (Karen)

“Hah?”

Touch?

“Touch what?” (Haine)

“This.” (Karen)

What Karen pointed at was the poster affixed to the wall, at the idol hero Celestis that was photographed in it -at her chest area.

“Wait, even if it’s a poster...a photo, that’s just...” (Haine)

Touching that chest area would be questionable.

Of course, it is just a photo, but it just feels criminal. No, this actually makes it feel even more criminal and wrong...

“Don’t complain and just touch it please. Even when you touched my boobs...” (Karen)

“Okay?!” (Haine)

This person was still holding a grudge on it!

That was only an accident when we were riding on one vehicle!

“Wait a second. I can’t ignore what you just said!” (Mirack)

Is what Mirack said. When I thought one more troublesome person got involved in it as well...

“Mirack-chan, shut up for a moment. We are in the middle of something here.” (Karen)

“Yes...” (Mirack)

She was immediately shot down.

The fire hero is so weak.

“T-Touch it already please, Haine-san.” (Karen)

“...Yes.” (Haine)

I don’t know what Karen-san is trying to accomplish here, but for now, I felt that the safest choice was to just touch it.

I give up and follow what Karen-san said. In other words, I touch the breasts

of the idol affixed at the wall...no, at the photo, nah, I was just touching a wall here.

“...”

pat pat pat

Only the expected sensation was felt. Hard. Flat. That's obvious, it is a wall after all. This is more saddening than I expected.

“So, what are your impressions?” (Karen)

I was asked by Karen-san.

Even if you ask me about my impressions...

“...Uhm, it is an incredible wall. Totally flat. Nothing at all.” (Haine)

“Then, it is my win.” (Karen)

““Win what?!””

Even Mirack shouted with me.

“At any rate, I have decided.” (Karen)

“What?” (Mirack) “What are you trying to make me do now...” (Haine)

Mirack and I were unable to keep up with what was going on and our spirit was slowly being chipped away.

“We are going.” (Karen)

“Go where?” (Haine)

“The Water capital, Hydra Ville. We going there to meet with the water hero, Celestis-san.” (Karen)

Chapter 38: Partner (Affectionate) Ride

Partner(相) and Affectionate (愛) are written differently, but read in the same way (ai)

“We are going to go meet the water hero?!” (Haine)

“What are you saying, Karen?! What are you going to do after meeting her?!” (Mirack)

“Of course, we will have a discussion with her”, is what Karen-san said.

“Whatever that person feels, her actions are putting our churches in a troubling state. We are going there to request her to stop it. If negotiation between churches doesn’t work, we will use our own hero connection.” (Karen)

“No well, if something like that was enough to make them stop, the Church would have brought us out already, right? Like, ‘you guys say something too’. They are not idiots, you know?” (Mirack)

Is what Mirack-san says. It looks like she is desperately trying to restrain the eccentric action of Karen-san.

“Have you forgotten, Mirack-chan? We have joined forces!” (Karen)

“We have joined forces!” (Mirack)

“That’s right. Even if they don’t hear us out individually, if it comes to a situation where two heroes request of it at the same time, even Celestis-san shouldn’t be able to refuse. Our alliance can serve of use in this kind of scenarios as well!” (Karen)

“I-I see... When you say it like that...it does feel that way!” (Mirack)

This is not good.

Since the time Mirack reconciled with Karen-san, she has become incredibly weak to the words ‘cooperation’ and ‘joined forces’.

In this kind of moments, I have to fulfill my job as an assistant.

"Wait please, Karen-san. Even if that idea is feasible, wouldn't it be bad to go all the way to the Water Church?" (Haine)

"Eh?"

For some reason, Karen-san glared at me.

Why is this person so scary today...

"Just think about it. How far is the water capital, Hydra Ville, from here?"
(Haine)

"Really far." (Karen)

"At the very least, it is further than the neighboring Muspelheim. Several times." (Mirack)

See, as I thought.

"If we go to somewhere like that, we will have no choice but to be absent from our churches. What would happen if monsters were to appear in that frame of time? If there's only one or two, the people in the area or the knights can do something about it, but the chances of a big swarm like the time with Pythonflies, or a gigantic monster like the fire cow Phalaris appearing are not zero." (Haine)

"T-That's right, Karen. That's exactly the time when heroes are needed. If we were to end up being 'absent', it would be an embarrassment!" (Mirack)

Sympathizing with my opinion, Mirack also attacks.

I thought we would be able to convince her like this, but it looks like Karen-san is a hero that doesn't falter to anyone.

"If it is that, there's no problem." (Karen)

"Eh?"

*

And so, we were brought to the extended section of the light grand church.

This is the place that has been completely established at the hangar of the small flying machine.

"If we ride this little one, we will be able to arrive at Hydra Ville in less than a day!" (Karen)

Seriously?

I have experienced its speed with my very body, so it is hard to say that's a lie.

"After this, we just have to take this long-distance ethereal communication device with us. Even in emergencies, we will be able to deal with it. We will be able to assist from anywhere in the world!" (Karen)

"Viva progress..." (Haine)

I also tried adding the meaning 'I give up' into it.

"...Eh? But only one person can ride a small-sized flying machine, right? Having 2 people ride it is already its very limit. If we add Mirack-san, it would be 3 people, isn't that a bit too much?" (Haine)

A new opposing opinion came from a hopeless situation.

But with this, wouldn't I end up staying? That in itself would be troublesome. Leaving the current Karen-san without supervision might be a bit dangerous...

"If it's a flying machine, I also have one I used to come here, you know."
(Mirack)

"You are also using one?!" (Haine)

Mirack also has a flying machine. One that is completely red like the symbol color of the Fire Church.

"Isn't that obvious? Even if it's relatively close, walking to Apollon City and Muspelheim would take one whole day. If I didn't have such a convenient ride, like hell I would be able to come here frequently." (Mirack)

"So you are really coming here frequently!" (Haine)

But with this, all obstructions to head to Hydra Ville have disappeared.

If I had to said one thing, it would be that I don't have my own flying machine. Maybe, I really will be staying behind?

"Let's go, Haine-san. Please ride at the back." (Karen)

“As I thought, it really ended up like this!” (Haine)

Karen-san had already straddled on the flying machine, and her back is facing me. As if telling me to sit there.

“Ah, but just a warning. No pretending like you are clinging onto me and then grab my boobs, okay? Definitely a no, okay?” (Karen)

“Just give me a break already!” (Haine)

I am beginning to feel like this will be haunting me for life.

“Hey you guys, that talk has been coming out pretty frequently for a while now. What’s that about? Don’t tell me, you really touched them?” (Mirack)

And once again, the ‘Karen-san love-love’ girl enters the fray.

“Don’t joke around! Like hell I would let a guy like that ride at the back of Karen! Just leave a guy like that here! No, a great idea came to mind. Haine, you ride my flying machine! I will be the one riding at Karen-san’s back!” (Mirack)

“Mirack-chan, shut up.” (Karen)

“Yes...” (Mirack)

The fire hero is so weak.

“Haine-san is my assistant, so it is a given that he will be accompanying us. Just get on already. Don’t touch my boobs like last time, okay?” (Karen)

“Yeah, yeah...” (Haine)

“Don’t...touch them...okay?” (Karen)

Why are you separating the words like that?

Being told this so insistently, it actually feels as if touching them is the right answer. How strange.

But at the same time, it feels dangerous.

I don’t know why, but since the time the idol poster was spread, I am not allowed to bring an incorrect answer with this ill-humour Karen-san.

“Now then, let’s go.” (Karen)

My journey to the Water capital, Hydra Ville, began with endless worry.

Chapter 39: Water capital's daily scenery

We have arrived.

"This is the Water capital, Hydra Ville. The city where the Water Church's headquarters are located."

What a beautiful scenery this city has.

There's canals and waterways here and there in the city, and on top of that, there's several tourist-looking people that have been passing by us on board of gondolas.

"Hydra Ville is a port city build on the sea. Because of it, within the five Churches, this is the wealthiest one." (Karen)

"Since the time the ethereal technology developed, their amount of goods transportation and the scope of it has increased drastically, and its worth as a trade port has increased drastically as well. In those points, the Water Church dealt with it in a flexible manner. The tolerance of ethereal machines is number one in this place." (Mirack)

"Cargo ships that run with ethereal energy have been created, so there's no need for the assistance of the waves and wind anymore after all. But I like this city as a sightseeing city, you know. Those gondolas are incredibly cute." (Karen)

"I have heard that the maintenance and the sightseeing places are mainly managed by the Water Church." (Mirack)

Even if I compare it to the few places I have seen until now, I can tell that the Water capital, Hydra Ville, was build with a clear policy in mind.

But this sagaciousness...it smells a lot like that person...

Water God, Coacervate.

He was a cunning and clever God. In the Genesis era, the one who formed the network of five Gods and defeated me was him.

And this place is the Water Church's headquarters, and the church that follows Coacervate.

Are the believers of the churches influenced by the God that they worship?

“...And so, we are going to go meet the water hero Celestis now but...how do you plan on meeting her?” (Haine)

“Let’s go to the headquarters of the Water Church, the water grand church. It is normal for the hero to be there, and even if she is not, we should be able to obtain some sort of clue.” (Karen)

“Just like in my case, you guys really like to charge in without making any appointments...” (Mirack)

Ignoring what Mirack said, I confirm the map in order to head to the Water Church’s headquarters.

“Hm, the shortest route would be to go straight here and...” (Haine)

“Ah, Haine-san, they say this viaduct is a famous place! Let’s go check it out!” (Karen)

“We aren’t here to sightsee, you know?” (Haine)

Is what I say when...

Dondoko dondondokodon dondokodondondon

“?!”

Dondoko dondondokodon dondokodondondon

A strange noise was approaching from somewhere?

“What’s with this noise? A musical instrument... A drum?” (Mirack)

“Haine-san, at the canal!” (Karen)

Looking at the place Karen-san is pointing at, I could see a drum floating on the water...no, that’s not it. There were a lot of drums on top of a big ship, and these drums were being beaten by many men.

The ship was wide, enough to occupy half of the canal. The gondolas that were passing by its side were in a tight state. They might crash with a single mistake.

The ship’s height was also proportional to its width, and it was so high that

even us who were looking at a slightly elevated area had to look up. And on top of it, there's men beating drums.

Dondoko dondondokodon dondokodondondon

“What’s that?” (Haine)

“I don’t know.” (Karen)

“Like hell we would understand this!” (Mirack)

Not a single one of us understood what was going on.

And, without a single care about our confusion, the situation headed onto an even more confusing one.

“Everyone~! I will be intruding-nyaa~~!”

A loud voice, that felt as if it was pressing onto the inside of my head, pierced my eardrums.

In the middle of the men that were beating the drums, a part that we were unable to see from our position had lifted high up -probably by the use of some sort of mechanism-and became a stage, moreover, there was one girl standing on top of that stage...

“The water hero, Celestis?!” (Haine)

There was no difference from the poster. That’s why I could tell. Things like the sleeve and the skirt’s hem were fluttering about, and the places that must be concealed are dangerously open; a sly outfit.

With only slight movements, the outfit moves a lot which attracts the eyes. And as a finishing blow, that sparkling smile of hers, it was as if she was utilizing 100% of her face’s muscles.

“An announcement! I have come to announce the live that will be held tomorrow~~!” (Celestis)



Dondoko dondondokodon dondokodondondon

The drums were interluding in good tempo.

“Cleaning everyone’s gloom, the pure stream water songstress, hero Celestis and her many drummers-de~~su!!” (Celestis)

Dokodokodokodokodokodoko!!!

I don’t understand anything anymore.

“An additional public performance has been decided earlier, and from tomorrow on to three days, there will be live concerts!! This time’s venue is incredible, you know! The stage is floating on the sea! No doubt it will be become a specialty of Hydra Ville! If you don’t come see the sea stage, you will regret it for the rest of your life! If you don’t come...Celes-tan will smush you into soup!!” (Celestis)

Yup, not one word at all.

Chapter 40: Emergency Announcement

"[Flame Burst]!"

A hellfire attacked the advertising ship mercilessly.

The culprit is, of course, this person that controls fire.

"Mirack-san?! What are you doing?! Are you an idiot?!" (Haine)

"Don't blame me! You are also unable to take anymore of this odd atmosphere, right?!" (Mirack)

Well, that's true but...even if that's the case, turning into an arsonist because of that is questionable as a hero.

"Don't worry. For her, this doesn't even amount to a fart." (Mirack)

When I look, the fire, that was supposed to be chaotically spreading in the place, was devoured by what seemed like an even bigger monster and was extinguished.

That giant monster that devoured this fire was...water.

The water below the canal rose up like a snake, lunged onto the fire, and devoured it completely.

"...What's this, seriously... Even if you get incredibly excited, please don't throw things to the stage, customer-sama..." (Celestis)

On top of the stage, the beautiful girl fluttered her blue garment.

"That garment, that looks like a dancing outfit at a glance, is actually the strongest divine relic of the Water Church, rivaling Karen's holy sword Saint-George and my Fire Fist Barbarossa." (Mirack)

You serious?

"Naturally, looking at the affinities between our elements, that person is my worst opponent. Water extinguishes fire. For her who is the water hero, extinguishing that level of flames is nothing." (Mirack)

Mirack looked as if she had snapped, but it seems she actually thought it out

before attacking.

No, she wouldn't have attacked if she didn't snap in the first place. Well, it can't be helped. Faced against such a mental corroding attack...

And so, this flashy fire and water clash gathered even more of the attention from the people, and it also drew attention to us.

"Oi, isn't that... the 'fire hero, Katack Mirack-sama'? And there's even the 'light hero-sama' too. I am from Apollon City, so I know!"

The attention is increasing.

Now then, how do we calm this down. It is not on the level of Celestis, but Mirack and Karen-san can also be considered the face of their respective church.

I wouldn't want to have us retreat in a way that would worsen the view the populace has on them.

"Everyone~~ the special guests have appeared~~!!" (Celestis)

Once again, the loud voice from the stage resounds.

"In this time's live stage performance, we will have the other churches' heroes appearing as a special event! I wanted to keep it a secret until the appointed day, but I can't hold it any longer, so I will be spilling the beans~~~!!" (Celestis)

"Whaaaaat?!"

I wasn't the only one surprised.

The surrounding local people, the tourists, and the general populace had their excitement rise.

"You kidding?!" "Seriously?!" "A collaboration work with 3 heroes?!" "I will definitely go see it! Can I get tickets now?!" "I was planning on returning today, but I will cancel my train and prolong it!" "Even if I have to work as a beverage seller there, I will definitely go there and see it!!"

The street corners of Hydra Ville had become the very definition of excitement.

And then...

“...So?”

Karen-san, Mirack, and I accompanied Celestis and arrived at the Water Church’s headquarters. If we stayed there, the ruckus would prolong who knows for how long.

This is supposed to be the office of the water hero, but just now, when we passed through the door, the room plate said ‘dressing room’...

“What are two heroes doing here in my island? If you came here to pick a fight, I call pass. I will soon be having a live performance after all.” (Celestis)

“...Your way of speaking is normal.” (Haine)

“Isn’t that obvious? If I don’t divide work and private life, my shoulders would grow stiff. If my body gets stiffer, it would affect my performance as well.” (Celestis)

I don’t know if she is serious about her job or she isn’t.

And Mirack, who was brought here without a single care of her opinion, was showing clear dissatisfaction.

“...Hmph, I have heard about your indecent side job for some time now, but I didn’t think it would be this indecent. Seeing it with my own eyes almost dislocated my jaw.” (Mirack)

“Then dislocate your jaw already. If you are able to do that, I can hire you as a comedian.” (Celestis)

“What did you say?!” (Mirack)

“Yes yes, fire hero-san that gets heated immediately. By the way, why are you together with the light hero? Didn’t you girls not get along?” (Celestis)

“Ugh!”

Those words of Celestis made Mirack shut up in an instant.

That’s right. Right now, you wouldn’t even be able to imagine it, but the relationship of Karen-san and Mirack was as bad as that of a cat and dog.

But well, it was all Mirack being the wild dog here though. Those words that

made her remember this, made even Mirack falter.

“.....W-We formed an alliance not that long ago.” (Mirack)

“Hah? Alliance? Seriously?! That’s incredible. So that means the light and fire churches have joined arms?” (Celestis)

“No, the churches are not involved. It was an arbitrary decision by Karen and I, but even so, we thought it would be effective in dealing with the monsters you see.” (Mirack)

“I see... But it is still incredible. In the current heroes, you guys were the ones who didn’t get along the most, and yet, from all the people, you girls formed an alliance.” (Celestis)

The continuous mention of ‘not getting along’ by Celestis, was making Mirack’s face sour.

The person herself doesn’t have any ill-intentions, but those words were like body blows that were stacking the damage.

“And so, the reason you came here was to give me this report?” (Celestis)

“About that...” (Karen)

Karen-san took over for Mirack who was quite weakened already.

Karen-san has been maintaining silence since the moment she entered the room. That, on the contrary, made me have a vague fear.

“Oh, Karen as well, it has been a while~. But well, even if I say so, this is our first time having a proper chat? The rumours of the good-girl hero at the light church have reached my ears as well though.” (Celestis)

“Yes. The reason I intruded on you today was because, Celestis-san, I have an important favor to ask of you.” (Karen)

“Eh?”

“Please stop being an idol.” (Karen)

““Direct approach?!””

Mirack and I both exclaimed in unison.

Chapter 41: An Idol's pride

"Hah? What are you saying?" (Celestis)

The request of Karen-san was so straightforward that Celestis visibly frowned.

"Your activities are having a bad influence on our cities. I want you to stop them." (Karen)

Karen-san didn't change her expression and didn't display her emotions.

On the other hand, Celestis' reaction was clear.

"That's why I have been asking, what is it you are saying! My songs are providing a bad influence?! That's not possible! Even if I look like this, I am still a hero, you know! I won't sing unless my fans are happy!" (Celestis)

"No no, you see...!" (Karen)

To think Celestis would be enraged in such a way. It looks like she has her own concerns regarding her activities as an idol, but at this rate, their thoughts will not connect at all.

I have no choice but to step in here. And then, I supplemented the parts that were lacking in the explanation of Karen-san.

About how the popularity of the idol Celestis was having a drastical rise, and with that, the proliferation of her fans in Apollon City and Muspelheim has exploded. This turned directly into most of them joining the Water Church.

This conflicts with the agreement of proselytizing prohibition that was formed between the churches.

"Ah, I see. So that's how it is." (Celestis)

After saying this much, Celestis finally reached an understanding.

"In other words, my popularity is on the verge of stealing your fans, so you came here to ask me to stop it. Plain girls have it tough huh." (Celestis)

"That's not it." (Karen)

Karen-san firmly answers.

"I don't mind your idol activities in itself. The problem is that it is connecting with proselytizing. That part is making this problem complicated. So, I think there's the need to revise this situation. For the sake of that, the methods that can be taken are two." (Karen)

"Stop being an idol, or stop being a hero. I see, so that's what you mean by the 'stop being an idol' huh." (Celestis)

Celestis says this as if lightly warding off the pressing of Karen-san.

On top of that, Mirack stands shoulder to shoulder with Karen-san and emphasizes the criticism.

"I am also of the same opinion. That's why I am here. In the first place, Celestis, even when you are standing as a hero, you are doing a hobby like being an idol. Aren't you ashamed? If you are a hero, you should devote yourself to your main job as a hero. If you want to devote yourself into being an idol, you should pass over the seat of hero to someone else. The current you can't seat in both and are half-assed." (Mirack)

The fire hero and the light hero; these two heroes were protesting together, so the water hero couldn't ignore it.

That was the objective when both of them came here but, will that show any effectiveness?

"...Are you stupid? That's quite the shallow thinking you have there."
(Celestis)

It had no effect.

"Then, I will ask you this as well. What is the job of a hero?" (Celestis)

"That's...protecting the people from the threat of monsters..." (Karen)

"That's correct, but that's not all." (Celestis)

Celestis smiles suggestively.

"Heroes...fight monsters as the representatives of the church. And then, with that, they show the power of the church to them. Heroes are the face of the church, the standard bearers. Seeing that all of the five current heroes are teenage girls around their 15 makes it clear, don't you think?" (Celestis)

Eh, is that true?

The light, fire, and water heroes here are all girls, but well, now that she mentions it, if they are going to use someone as their face, rather than a man, it would be more appealing with a cute girl.

"You see, in order to serve my job as the church's face, I am doing my very best. That's what an idol is. Fortunately, my fans have accepted this, and my popularity has risen. My popularity reaching outside the Water capital just means that my efforts came at play there." (Celestis)

"But then, the other churches—!" (Karen)

"If that troubles the fire and light, that just means you are lacking in effort. Conforming with just defeating monsters. You are lacking awareness as a representative of the church. You don't have a clear policy and are simply working without a single thought as the face of the church. All of this just means that it is now biting you in the back, that's all." (Celestis)

Karen-san and Mirack were unable to say anything back.

That was akin to admitting that what Celestis said was correct.

"Celestis-san...you looked like a regular idiot, but you were actually thinking about things properly huh." (Haine)

"What's with this man, so rude on our first meeting! Or more like, seriously, who are you?" (Celestis)

I have been following along until now like normal, but it seems Celestis had not even acknowledged my presence.

With a small self-introduction, I advance the conversation.

"Then, Celestis-san won't show self-restraint in your idol activities and won't show consideration to the other churches, right?" (Haine)

"Of course. Why does a person who puts in the effort have to show consideration to people who don't put the effort?" (Celestis)

I see. Understood.

"Then it can't be helped. We are leaving!" (Haine)

Chapter 42: If pushing doesn't work, pull

"Eh?" "Eh?"

My announcement of leaving, left Karen-san and Mirack surprised.

"What do you mean by that, Haine-san? We are leaving already, you say?"
(Karen)

"Just as I said. We have no room to refute Celestis-san at all. So, persisting anymore is a waste of time. Let's leave

right this instant!" (Haine)

I push the shoulders of the two and head to the exit.

"Hohoh, assistant-kun seems to understand the most out of the group."
(Celestis)

Is what Celestis said with a grin.

"Are you serious? After being told all that, leaving now is just~~!" (Mirack)

"T-That's right, Haine-san. If we talk for a bit more, we might be able to find a point of compromise~~!" (Karen)

Looks like Mirack and Karen-san have still not given up, but even so, I push the two of them.

"No no, you two have already gone through so much asking her. Knowing that there's no hope for it, we can't just continue staying here. Even a second is valuable. Let's return

right this instant. Let's return *without waiting for tomorrow. Without waiting! For tomorrow!*" (Haine)

"That's right, leave---Hm?" (Celestis)

While purposely emphasizing the words, I slowly approach the exit.

'Not yet? Haven't noticed yet?', is what I was thinking when...

"Wait!"

Okay, got the fish. Just as planned.

To explain what this all means, first of all, let's see the next action of Celestis who is desperately trying to calm down her agitation.

"Uhm...there's no need to return immediately, right? You have come all the way to Hydra Ville, a sightseeing city, you know? At the very least, how about staying one night—no, two nights!" (Celestis)

"No, can't. They can't neglect their duties as heroes. We definitely cannot wait for tomorrow. We will be leaving right this instant!" (Haine)

"Wait! Momento!!" (Celestis)

Finally, Celestis clung onto me.

Her attitude made such a sudden turn that Karen-san and Mirack had a bewildered face.

"...Uhm, it will probably be troublesome, you know. Like, if I had to say who would be troubled, it would be me. If asked why...that would be because if you guys don't appear tomorrow on...you see, I announced it already, right? In tomorrow's live, you guys will be appearing as guests." (Celestis)

"Ah."

It seems like, with this, Karen-san and Mirack noticed too. That leaving right now is the best plan of action that will put Celestis in the most predicament.

"That was something I said on the spur of the moment, but it unexpectedly got a good reception from the customers, or how to say it.....Germana, Germana!!" (Celestis)

When Celestis shouted that, the door opened and a thin man entered.

"How are the current sales of the tickets?!" (Celestis)

"Well, since the time you finished your advertising and returned, sales have increased in an explosive rate. The extra area we prepared just in case was also instantly sold out. Even so, the enquiries are not dying down, and I don't know if the increase of seats will make it in time... Planning department is considering the idea of adding one more extra area." (Germana) <Anagram for Manager>

"Waaa! It jumps up that much just from announcing that there will be 2 hero guests?! As expected, heroes are incredible!!" (Celestis)

"Also, the mass media has already caught onto this and is applying for interviews on this matter." (Germana)

"With a single adlib, it created such an upheaval! My talent is scary! Ah, but! If Mirack and Karen are not present that day...." (Celestis)

".....A storm of boos." (Haine)

The short words I stealthily whispered to Celestis had frozen her.

False publicity, betrayed fans, cursing that covers up the venue, customers that leave in the middle, floods of protests, trust that won't return, popularity drop; becoming an idol that has fallen, the office will throw her away; beginning to think all those things...

"GYAAAAAAAH!!"

It surpassed what her brain could handle.

And then, she unsightly clings onto my leg.

"Stop~~~!! Please don't go~~!! At least till tomorrow! At least for one day, participate in the live~~!!!" (Celestis)

"Eeh. Even if you ask me that~~, the ones who are going to be participating are the heroes, I am a mere assistant~~" (Haine)

"What are you saying! Acting as if you are an assistant or a subordinate, but in truth, you are actually the one holding the reins! I have already seen through that!! If you say YES, everything will be YES, that's how I have seen it! That's why, please nod!!" (Celestes)

"No." (Haine)

No mercy.

"Because, you know, our request was also rejected with no consideration. Since the talk is over, there's no reason for us to stay here, right? Even if you have a reason for us to stay, we don't, right?" (Haine)

"That's...uhm..." (Celestis)

"If there's no room for consideration, then, there's no need to be considerate, right?" (Haine)

"Guh guh..." (Celestis)

Celestis made a groaning voice with an expression that was not fitting of an idol.

"I-I get it already! About your request, I will consider it in a positive light. I will search for a compromise that will not be bad for you guys! That's why, please participate in the live!" (Celestes)

"YES." (Haine)

Negotiation has succeeded.

Chapter 43: Light puts water to shame

“And so, you two, is it okay for you two to stay in Hydra Ville until tomorrow?” (Haine)

I have already given a consent, but I confirm the decision of Karen-san and Mirack.

“I don’t mind. Just getting to see that idol woman get so cornered made me super satisfied!” (Mirack)

She must have been incredibly discontent about being told all that. Mirack had a refreshed face.

“Haine-san, you knew this would happen from the very beginning, right? That’s why you suddenly said we should leave...” (Karen)

I am sorry for stepping into action without an explanation, but I had no room to explain.

Celestis seems to be unexpectedly intelligent, so showing any poor moves might allow her to take the lead on us.

While I was thinking that, Karen-san approached me speedily.

“Haine-san!” (Karen)

“Hm?”

“Haine-san! Haine-san! Haine-san!” (Karen)

“Yeah, I am Haine.” (Haine)

What is it?

Having your eyes shine like that and looking at me with such fixation, what are you doing?

Calling a person’s name in rapid succession like that, she didn’t even give a proper response and just left to another place.

To the place where the cornered and crushed Celestis is.

“Uuuuh... For this idol hero Celes-tan to yield to something like blackmailing!!”

(Celestis)

“Celestis-san, thank you very much for accepting our request. Thanks to that, we have achieved our number one objective.” (Karen)

“Uh? So what?” (Celestis)

“I will be achieving my other objective right now.” (Karen)

“Eh? Wagyaaaaaa!!!” (Celestis)

Both hands of Karen-san grabbed the breasts of Celestis?!

Her right and left hand were tightly grabbing each side respectively. A stance that left no opening.

“Nyaaa?!! Wa?! What’s with this girl so suddenly! Don’t touch touch me so frivolously. These are the boobs of an idol! Security! Security! SOS!” (Celestis)

Even when Celestis was making a racket and flailing, she was unable to free herself from the firm lock of Karen-san.

In that time, Karen-san was fondling with a rather complicated expression.

“Mirack-san...” (Haine)

“Don’t ask me. Since coming to this city, there’s nothing I understand.”
(Mirack)

Watching over this situation, we could only feel confused.

And then, after a few seconds, Karen-san, who had brought down Celestis-san to the floor with her fondling, had finally released her, and...

“I win.” (Karen)

“What did you win?!” (Celestis)

A mysterious declaration of victory.

“I can’t believe this! My breasts, the breasts of an idol! Touching them without permission!” (Celestis)

“Isn’t that fine? Isn’t an idol that kind of job?” (Mirack)

“It is not!!” (Celestis)

Mirack nonchalantly throws her two punches in and Celestis roars.

"An idol is not a job that sells lust! It is a job that sells youth!! If it gets around that my boobs were fondled...my value will decrease! It is still salvageable since it was a vulgar person of the same gender, but...! Hm? Excessive skinship between pure girls, the innocence that it portrays but the scent of eros that wafts from it... Might sell." (Celestis)

As long as there's the possibility, she immediately enters into calculations. So this is what a pro looks like...

"But, to go 'Nyaa' and Wagyaa', this idol girl has some unexpected cute screams. Seeing that slyness of yours, I thought you wouldn't be on the side to scream like that though." (Mirack)

"You are noisy, fire hero she-male!! In that case, tell me about that tone you are playing! You have thrown away your feminineness and all! And yet, you have those useless big breasts there, if I just touch them, you would also cry in the sa—!" (Celestis)

"Guard." (Mirack)

"Why are you blocking me?!" (Celestis)

"No well, you would obviously block that." (Mirack)

I see. So showing girls bickering like that can sell huh.

I have learned something new.

"A-At any rate, definitely appear in tomorrow's live, okay?! If possible, the day after tomorrow too...and the performances in the future as well! Depending on the sales, there might be another day for this!" (Celestis)

"That depends on your sincerity." (Haine)

"Obviously came down to that!" (Celestis)

Celestis grabs her head and writhes.

"But, just to tell you, I am not the one that does the recruiting of newcomers, I leave all of that to the church, so I will have to talk to the church itself in order

to make it have some sort of concrete form, you know? The higher-ups have the sweet profit of obtaining believers, so they are in tacit consent of my idol activities. I don't think we will get an immediate reply between today and tomorrow..." (Celestis)

"If you can't, we just have to leave tomorrow. Do it." (Haine)

"What's with this tough negotiation! Hey, Karen-san, give me this assistant of yours! I want to hire him as a negotiator in difficult situations!!" (Celestis)

"..."

And then, Karen-san once again grabs the breasts of Celestis in silence.

And once again, Celestis became the victim.

"...But really, why has Karen-san been persistently fondling the breasts of Celestis?" (Haine)

".....I don't really want to say this but..." (Mirack)

Mirack says this with a somewhat heavy tone.

"It must be your fault, Kuromiya Haine. Karen became weird since the time you spread that poster of Celestis." (Mirack)

"Uh?"

"Her competitive spirit came out. I wonder what was the real objective when she suddenly proposed about going to the Water capital. When you talked down Celestis in the negotiation a while ago, she was happy that you took her side more than that of Celestis." (Mirack)

"I have never been the enemy of Karen-san though." (Haine)

"Showing it out is what makes her happy. That's just how women work."
(Mirack)

When Mirack says it, it suddenly makes it more vivid.

"Then, the reason why she is fondling Celestis' breasts so persistently?"
(Haine)

"Are you going to have me say everything?" (Mirack)

Even if you tell me to get a hint...

"Karen has become quite the passionate woman. When she had a weak constitution, she was slender and lovely...just when did she change this much? Damn it. If only we had fixed our friendship sooner!!" (Mirack)

You are plenty passionate of a woman as well.

But, hearing this about 'passionate', for some reason, the first one that came to mind was the Light Goddess.

As I thought, Gods and their believers do resemble each other.

Chapter 44: Sweet Room

And so, it has been decided that we will be staying one night in Hydra Ville.

We are considered special guests in the live performance, so we were allowed in the Water Church's guest room.

Even in this famous sightseeing city and trading port, this is a central building. The guest room in such a place is, as expected, quite the extravagant thing. It is a structure that was made in a way that the sea breeze could easily pass through it, so I was able to have a good view of the city's nightscape.

"Hmph, show-offs." (Mirack)

Mirack mutters this as she sinks her rear over and over on the soft bed.

Is she planning on acting that way in all this trip?

"She said we can freely pass the time until tomorrow's live. It looks like we can also do some sightseeing outside as long as we decide on the time." (Haine)

"Even if this was to have Celestis-san hear out our request, it has become an incredible thing. At first, I thought we would be singing as well, and that flustered me." (Karen)

But, as expected, that didn't happen.

In terms of artistic performances, these two are total beginners. There's no way the pro Celestis would have them suddenly learn the lyrics and have them stand on stage. It looks like they can safely spectate from the side.

Even so, in order to entertain the audience to the highest limits, she said she would be thinking up the best way to show the flashiness of having three heroes together, and then, left to a meeting.

She really is a zealous worker.

"She really was an aggressive person, that Celestis-san. Not only a hero, she also holds pride in being an idol as well." (Karen)

"To me, she is only a half-assed person that can't decide on one thing though...well, that's what I want to say, but...in truth, even with that, she is still

able to properly do her job as a hero.” (Mirack)

Eh? Really?

“Since officially becoming a hero, the number of monsters she has defeated are...not that different from Karen and I. Even when she is putting so much zeal in her hobby. I wonder, just when does she head out to do her subjugations.” (Mirack)

“Is that so. Celestis-san truly is an incredible person. She is properly managing as a hero and an idol..... Haine-san.” (Karen)

Karen-san makes a more serious tone than normal.

“Do you remember what Celestis-san said?” (Karen)

Heroes are the face of the church. ‘Since you have become a hero, you have to fulfill that duty’, is that what she is referring to?

“I...thought that it was okay for heroes to just defeat monsters and protect the livelihood of the people. But my seat as a hero and my power was given to me by the Church, that’s why, I probably also hold responsibility in regards to the Church.” (Karen)

The serious Karen-san said this with an expression as if it was truly bothering her heart.

“I thought that responsibility could be fulfilled by simply defeating monsters. But that wasn’t all. Maybe there’s other things that have to be done. Seeing Celestis-san today, I began thinking that...” (Karen)

“Karen-san is not wrong.” (Haine)

First of all, I say this.

“What Celestis said is not wrong, but Karen-san isn’t wrong either. The most important duty of heroes is to protect the people. Karen-san who is always thinking about that as her number one priority is already a splendid hero.” (Haine)

“That’s right, Karen. It can’t be helped that your eyes were stolen by that flashiness of Celestis, but you can’t get lost by it. Also, remember what we came here to do. You went through the trouble of coming all the way here to solve

the friction between the five Churches. You are doing plenty enough in your duty for the church." (Mirack)

Mirack also joined me and cheered Karen-san up.

"I see. That's right." (Karen)

It seems like Karen-san has regained her spirit.

Mirack and I silently bump fists.

"Then, let's sleep already. I will return to my room." (Haine)

"Eh? Haine-san is not sleeping here?" (Karen)

No way that's possible.

I am a man of age. If I sleep a night in the same room as them, some sort of mistake will definitely occur.

Even if I am the reincarnation of the Dark God, as long as I hold a human body, I can't stay indifferent to the instincts and physiological desires it comes with.

That's why I follow reason.

"I-I see... Then tonight, it will be Karen and I only...!!" (Mirack)

"No, Mirack has a room prepared for Mirack only, so sleep there." (Haine)

"What?!" (Mirack)

"Truly a VIP reception. To think they would give us a personal room for each one of us." (Haine)

"Damn it!! This is the very definition of unneeded kindness!" (Mirack)

In the future, even if there's chances for sleep overs, I promise myself that I will definitely hinder any opportunities of Karen-san and Mirack sharing a room by themselves.

*

And so, I return to the room that was prepared for me, and just in the moment I was thinking about sleeping...

knock knock

'Who is it?' is what I thought as I open the door to check. The one that was standing there was a thin adult man.

"Eh? You are..." (Haine)

I remember seeing him somewhere before.

...Right, the person that Celestis was calling Germana. He is probably the same as me, an assistant of the hero or a subordinate.

'But why is that person here?', is what I was wondering when the thin man begins to talk.

"I am sorry for intruding on you at such a late hour. There was something I wanted to talk to you about in given chance, you see." (Germana)

"...Something you wanted to talk about? Is it related to tomorrow's live?"
(Haine)

I have no other idea but this.

Something to talk with a person that he met for the first time today, the only thing that would be is work related.

"It is already related to that, but there's also one other thing." (Germana)

"Eh?"

"First of all, I have to introduce myself here. I am the manager of Celestis-sama's idol activities, but..."

Manager? Not Germana?

"...That's only my assumed form. I am actually the reincarnated Water God, Coacervate. It has been a while, Dark God, Entropy."

Chapter 45: The stupid legend of the Water God

“...What an ill-natured joke.” (Haine)

“Oh? Are you saying I am lying?”

“If it is a lie, just with the point that you are talking about being a God when you are a human would already make you ill-natured; if it is true, the point that you are mixing in with the human society and scheming something unpleasant is already enough to call it ill-natured. Whichever it is, you are an ill-natured person.” (Haine)

Sadly, the moment my identity was revealed, I understood that what he said was the truth.

An inhuman part of me was reacting.

Water God, Coacervate.

One of the five Gods of Creation, and the God that rules over water.

Water washes away impurities, and purifies the world. But once the stream stops, the water will stagnate and be contaminated. Water then turns into an impurity that rots the world.

The Coacervate in front of me is truly the personification of that kind of water. Stagnated water that has been contaminated.

“So you also reincarnated. I am surprised. That means most of the Gods have descended to the surface world?” (Haine)

“There’s not much to do even if I stay in the God Realm after all. By the way, it wouldn’t be recommendable to talk about things like this in the corridor. Isn’t it about time you let me enter your room?”

If possible, I would prefer not letting a person like this in my room, but with our identities clear now, I can’t just let him go without knowing what this guy is planning.

I reluctantly let the man into my room. Seriously, as a visitor late in the night, he really is not a partner that makes my heart dance.

The current figure of this guy. A man in his middle twenties. I have described him as a thin man for a while now, but that's how it made me think with that well-formed and slender face of his. The only thing is that he is not that handsome to remain in the head of someone, which makes it even more detestable.

His outfit is probably a formal outfit in this world. It is well-made and truly shows class, but aside from that, there's no other impressions of it.

In other words, whether it is good or bad, it doesn't fall into any of those categories in the impression area.

It truly makes me see him more and more as that God.

"Well then, let's celebrate our reunion. Dark God Entropy, how did you feel when reincarnating?" (Coacervate)

"Don't call me by that name. Right now, I am Kuromiya Haine." (Haine)

"That's your name as a human, right?" (Coacervate)

"But you...I am surprised you were able to notice my identity. I wasn't able to tell your identity until you told me." (Haine)

"Let's just say...it was thanks to a certain simple-minded cow." (Coacervate)

Cow..... the fire cow, Phalaris.

In other words, the reincarnated form of the Fire God Nova huh.

"I also took notice of the short-circuited and violent plan he had, so I already had surveillance setup for him, you know? And just a few days ago, a mere amount of 3 humans appeared for this so called fire cow subjugation and managed to accomplish it. But, to my surprise, there was one person there who could control dark matter!" (Coacervate)

"....."

"At that moment, I understood everything. The one who released you was the Light Goddess, Inflation, right? For these few hundred years, her movements have been unclear after all." (Coacervate)

"And what about it? This time you are thinking about beating her up?

Reproducing the same method you used 1,600 years ago, that is.” (Haine)

When I am talking with this guy, I end up remembering even when I don’t want to.

In the battle of Gods that occurred 1,600 years ago...

All six Gods created the world at the beginning of it all. Created the sky, sea, land; and then, the vegetation that grows above it, animals and insects, and in the end, we created humans.

The trigger of that battle were those humans.

Within all the things that the Gods created, the humans had unpredictable possibilities compared to everything in nature.

That’s why, I -the Dark God, Entropy-said this: ‘Humans are interesting living beings. Let’s give them freedom and see what they can accomplish’.

And then, the first one to directly object to this was the Fire God, Nova.

“There’s no better living being than the Gods! And humans are just lower life-forms that are under the servitude of us Gods!”

The Light Goddess Inflation didn’t say who was right or wrong, and only said: ‘I will follow what the Dark God Entropy says’. Even in those days, she was someone I didn’t understand well.

The Wind God Quasar said: ‘Whatever the case, this is stupid’, and the Mother Earth Mantle said: ‘Both opinions are important’.

In other words, over half of the Gods had not shown any clear siding at first, and in that instance, it was still unknown how it would turn out. However, when the fight begun, it had turned into a one-sided battle of 5 vs 1.

The one who orchestrated this is the person right in front of me. The one that never showed his opinion until the very end, the Water God, Coacervate.

“No well, you see, I chose the best route, you know?” (Coacervate)

Coacervate probably noticed my criticizing gaze. As always, he is sharp in this kind of areas.

“Whatever claim were to pass, the fight of the Gods would intensify, and if it

were to become a messy fight, the surface world would also be enveloped by the chaos, and life would have died without leaving a single trace behind, wouldn't it? In order to reduce the damage to its minimum, a fast ending to the fight was necessary, don't you think?" (Coacervate)

"And because of that, you coaxed the Gods that were keeping their neutrality and placed them in the same side as you and Nova huh. As expected of a scoundrel, it comes with being good at making up excuses. In all situations, you spout sophism and make it so you are not the bad guy." (Haine)

"Oya oya, so harsh." (Coacervate)

...So...

"How about you talk already. Why did you reincarnate as a human, and what are you planning this time?" (Haine)

Chapter 46: Water God's speedy state.

Water God, Coacervate.

This guy is currently not a God, but a reincarnated human. Just like me.

The reason why I reincarnated as a human was purely because I wanted to enjoy the world after 1,600 years long. If I want to observe the human world, being a human myself is the best option.

By the way, the reason the Light Goddess Inflation reincarnated into a human was because: 'I want to give birth to your (Dark God) baby'. A reason that's hard to understand, or more like, I don't really want to understand.

Both of us may have some pretty fuzzy reasons, but the one in front of me is different from us. Coacervate never does things without a reason.

What he does is always connected to troubling someone, and he never does anything that doesn't.

That's why I ask him.

Why he reincarnated into a human.

"You are quite direct huh. It is as if you are thinking I am someone that has to be scheming something all the time or I will die." (Coacervate)

"And that's just how it is, right? Also, it makes it even more suspicious since you went through the trouble of revealing your identity yourself. For you, secrets that the other party has not noticed are the best trump cards, and until the most effective moment to reveal them, you will hide them even if it's through sheer obstinacy." (Haine)

"No way no way. I only came here tonight to reheat that old friendship..."
(Coacervate)

A dark stare.

"...Is one of the reasons, but there's also one thing I wanted to ask of you, you see. For the sake of that, I had no choice but to reveal my identity."
(Coacervate)

"What the hell are you scheming this time?" (Haine)

"Right, in order to do that, it would be best to tell you from the beginning. Haine-san, what do you think about this present world?" (Coacervate)

Coacervate directed that face of his to the window. A gesture saying 'look at the world' huh.

"This world has changed quite a bit from the Genesis era, right? A material called ethereal was discovered and the civilization grew, machines and magic began to mix in the cities of humans, even things like monsters began appearing, and the fighting has grown sporadic." (Coacervate)

"You Gods were the ones who created monsters, right?" (Haine)

"Is that how it was? Well, that's right." (Coacervate)

For someone like him, this was a rare moment where he actually spoke with a decisive tone.

"I was the one who proposed the idea of creating monsters." (Coacervate)

"...As expected. I did think that was the case." (Haine)

"Oya oya, you are not surprised?" (Coacervate)

"That's really an underhanded method fitting of you, that's all. Creating these enemies called monsters, you make them attack humans, and make it so humans once again cling onto Gods. Underhanded. Truly the underhanded Water God." (Haine)

"But, don't you think that's also the fault of the humans? Even though we are the ones who gave birth to them, just because their lifestyle got a bit more convenient, they forget about their true parents. Monsters might be the screams of us Gods' hearts saying that we don't want to be forgotten."

(Coacervate)

"Your sophism is getting annoying already." (Haine)

"Anyways, when ethereal was discovered in the human world , the other five Gods aside from you might have convened and thought up countermeasures?"

(Coacervate)

"At least be more decisive about something like that." (Haine)

"And so, the decision called monsters came out. Nova, Quasar, Mantle, and I, created Mother Monsters that hold the element of their respective element. I wonder where they are now? At any rate, as long as they are living in this world somewhere, I think they would create monsters infinitely?" (Coacervate)

"What about Inflation?" (Haine)

"The great Light Goddess. Her heart can't be understood by someone like me." (Coacervate)

So he couldn't earn her approval huh.

And that's why there's no light element monsters.

If there really are existences called Mother Monsters...it would be dangerous to blindly believe all Coacervate says, but...it would mean that there's also a fire element Mother Monster and is still giving birth to more monsters.

Looks like that event that was essentially like sealing the Fire God Nova won't be stopping the appearances of fire element monsters.

"The hero plan was also my proposition, it seems?" (Coacervate)

"As I said, talk more decisively." (Haine)

"The other Gods also followed what I proposed and send an oracle to their own Church, and created this system called heroes, it seems? Thanks to that, a structure called 'World's Threat vs God's Envoy' was created and looks like this held back the decline of the faith. But I wonder if that satisfied everyone?" (Coacervate)

"Nova looked dissatisfied. That's why he reincarnated into a cow monster himself." (Haine)

"Looks like he thought of something useless with the lacking brain he has. But there might be others who are actually thinking properly." (Coacervate)

"Are you talking about yourself?" (Haine)

"After announcing my series of proposals, I immediately descended to the surface world. And then, without leaving it on the hands of the humans, I

produced the hero plan myself, I think? But I didn't only have the hero fight monsters, I also created a number of policies, and increased the effectiveness? Thanks to that, it seems like my Water Church has a lot more believers than other churches?" (Coacervate)

So after having everyone participate in his proposal, he alone went and put it into practice himself huh.

Really does sound just like him.

"...And so, that plan of yours was this idol thing?" (Haine)

The disgraceful behaviour of the singing and dancing hero Celestis pops up in my mind.

And so, this guy here is working as that thing called manager. A puppeteer that hides his identity while stealthily making his moves.

"I am simply utilizing plans that are effective for each generation of heroes? That's probably the best method for the current hero Celestis-san to obtain believers?" (Coacervate)

"That might be the case, but...each generation, you say. You...each time a hero takes over, you always do such 'commendable' managing? Just how many times have you reincarnated?" (Haine)

"I have only reincarnated once though?" (Coacervate)

"Hah?" (Haine)

But that's just...

"It looks like I have been living in this body for more than a hundred years already. I don't think I have died even once or have been reborn in that time though?" (Coacervate)

"A human body can't live that long. No, in the first place, no matter how I look at you, you are around your thirties—" (Haine)

"Did I say I reincarnated as a human?" (Coacervate)

"Hah?"

"Ah right, I have only revealed my identity, and haven't introduced myself yet,

right? Let me do it now then.” (Coacervate)

And then, he said.

“The name of this body is Water Demon, Mephistopheles. A water element monster that has the ability to mimic humans, you know?” (Coacervate)

Chapter 47: Water Demon God

And then, that guy visibly changed the shape of his eyes.

His arms and legs stretched to abnormal lengths, scales surfaced from his whole body, and grew extraordinarily sticky.

From the spaces in between the overlapping scales, some sort of viscous liquid was leaking, and they fell onto the floor.

He was clearly not a human. If I had to describe it, it would be a merman. In other words, a monster.

“You...were the same as Nova huh.” (Haine)

I remembered the fire element monster, fire cow Phalaris, which was the reincarnation of Fire God Nova, so I said this.

“His decision was incredibly simple and crude. But the reason why I created this body was for a far more grand plan. Monsters are irregular living beings, so the passage of time is of no matter, and this body can change into a men or women of any age and have any appearance I want, you know?” (Coacervate)

Is what Coacervate says as he showcases his viscous and strange figure. Water Demon, Mephistopheles.

“Thanks to that, I have already lived around a hundred years in the surface world. It might have been even longer than that though?” (Coacervate)

Meaning that with this monster vessel of his, he doesn't grow old and doesn't die, he can live in whichever generation, and is able to get involved with the water hero from the shadows -and with the Water Church as well.

“That might mean that's just how desperate Gods are now, don't you think? Because you know, the scale of my church equals the amount of prayer energy I can absorb so, don't you think it is just human nature to do the work yourself instead of simply leaving it to others?” (Coacervate)

Don't go talking about human nature when you are a God.

“You really are desperate. To think you guys would get so attached to

humans, I wouldn't have been able to imagine it 1,600 years ago. What happened in the time I was sealed?" (Haine)

"Oh? You still don't know?" (Coacervate)

"?"

"Well, that's fine. To put it briefly, in this hundred years since the time ethereal was discovered, I got desperate in the shadows and came out, and then served my church. If it's the kind Haine-san, you should understand my hardships, right?" (Coacervate)

"I don't. This is something you are doing for your own convenience, right?" (Haine)

"How harsh. But, after saying this much, I wonder if the preparations are enough to finally enter the real topic of tonight?" (Coacervate)

Now that he mentions it, what did this guy come here to do?

Saying he came here to warm up an old friendship, talking about his own circumstances, and showing his monster vessel; those are definitely not the reasons why.

I will be repeating myself here but, when this God moves, it is definitely for the sake of some sort of plot that will be troubling like crazy other people.

"To tell you the truth, there's something that I might want to ask of Haine-san?" (Coacervate)

"I refuse." (Haine)

"For the sake of that, I might have one other thing I want to show you?" (Coacervate)

"I refuse." (Haine)

"So we may have to move to another place. Can you come along?" (Coacervate)

"As I have been saying, I refuse!" (Haine)

But seriously, this God really doesn't listen to others. He jumps out of the window.

He flies as if swimming in mid-air.

"Ah, seriously!!!" (Haine)

No matter what he says, it will never be anything good, but since I already know that, leaving him unsupervised will not bring anything good either, I had no choice but to jump out of the window as well.

"[Dark Matter, Set]!"

Aside from erasing all divine powers, my dark matter can also control gravity.

If I utilize that and reverse the gravity to my desires, I can glide here and there in places that have no footing.

But, just where does Coacervate plan on taking me?

We moved to a place outside of the Water capital, Hydra Ville. The lights of the town were already far. After leaving the port area, what's next is the sea that reaches as far as the eye can see.

"Just what are you trying to show me bringing me all the way here? There's only the sea here." (Haine)

"Haine-san, don't you think the sea is great? Big and deep. It is so grand that it might be able to keep a variety of things inside it, right?" (Coacervate)

"At least be decisive when saying that." (Haine)

"See, can you please look at that? Look at what's contained within this great sea at this moment..." (Coacervate)

Being incited to, I look at the sea that's at my feet.

...What's that? There's something there. Moreover, it is pretty big. Is it a whale? Or something on the scale of that. It is hidden in the sea, so it is hard to get a clear look at it, but it is a living being that has a completely different shape from that of a whale.

...An eel? A big eel that's similar to a whale. And it is not only one, there's two...three...no, there are even more.

.....No, that's wrong too. As I thought in the beginning, it is only one.

All of those are its heads and are connected to one body!

"This is the multi-headed monster that I have created. I named it Hydra Serpent...or Serpent Hydra? Whatever suits your taste. Anyways, it is a proud creation of mine, probably?" (Coacervate)

This Hydra Serpent seemed to be sleeping in the sea, it wasn't moving at all. I felt as if I was looking at a machine that didn't have its switch turned on yet. It is waiting for its moment of activation.

Anyways, it is big. Its size rivals that of the fire cow Phalaris.

Something like this is hiding in the sea and is close to the Water capital.

"I leave most of the monster production to the Mother Monster, but monster creation itself can be done by the Gods themselves, don't you think? It is said that Mother Monsters were created by Gods after all." (Coacervate)

You were the one who said that.

"But that's exactly why most of the monsters created by Gods are strong. Maybe that's how order-made things work? This Hydra Serpent, the fire cow Phalaris, and this body of mine; Haine-san, don't you feel it too?" (Coacervate)

"And so? What do you intend to do by going through the trouble of inviting me all the way here where this sea monster is? Are you thinking about using this guy to defeat me?" (Haine)

"No way. You were easily able to defeat the gigantic monster that had the Fire God dwelling inside it. Even if it's my proud creation, I don't think it can do that much? Isn't there a more fitting role for this little boy?" (Coacervate)

And then, Coacervate said something outrageous.

"In tomorrow's live..." (Coacervate)

"What?" (Haine)

"...In the live where three heroes will be participating...how about having this Hydra Serpent attack that stage?" (Coacervate)

Chapter 48: Great Sea Dragon

“What...did you say?!” (Haine)

It was so much that I lost my words.

“Have it attack the live stage?!” (Haine)

“I thought that maybe that’s also a valid option?” (Coacervate)

“Don’t joke around! A live stage is a place where a lot of people gather, right?! Several hundreds to thousands! If you have a giant monster attack a place like that, just how many casualties will be created—!” (Haine)

“In that part, there’s no need to worry. For what reason do we have heroes?”
(Coacervate)

“What you mean is!!” (Haine)

“That’s right, what I truly plan on doing is...having Celestis-san defeat this monster, maybe?” (Coacervate)

Defeat, he says?

Is he saying he plans on having this monster attack the live stage in order to have it be defeated?

“In the middle of those girls’ singing and dancing, and the audience that is enjoying this show, at the climax of it all, I will have them witness in the flesh the real duty of heroes, monster subjugation. And that will drive the excitement to the max! With this, there’s no doubt that more believers will appear from this! Is what I think will happen?” (Coacervate)

“There’s no way I would let you do that. Are you saying you would be going this far just to obtain popularity?” (Haine)

“Of course, it will be made as a coincidence that this monster appears in the middle of the live, maybe? The audience, the people related to the church, Celestis-san herself, would most likely think that way? There’s no other thinkable explanation after all.” (Coacervate)

The Water God talks as if it is an obvious thing.

This guy, could it be possible that...he has been orchestrating the monster subjugations like that until now?

Have monsters be defeated by heroes. By creating a scenario that fulfills this to its entirety, he utilizes this to increase the power of the church?

"In my opinion, it makes me wonder why the others don't do the same. Don't you think?" (Coacervate)

He says brazenly that there's no better scenario than that.

"The objective of us creating monsters was exactly for that, wasn't it? In that case, instead of just creating monsters like crazy and then having it 'just do whatever they want', it is better to knead it in a way that shows 10 to 20 times more results, don't you think? I am simply putting the best of my efforts, you know? In order to have everyone happy, you see?" (Coacervate)

"What part of that is happiness?!" (Haine)

I was already on the verge of snapping, and yet, this water demon continues speaking.

"Won't Celestis-san be happy as well? By defeating that Hydra Serpent tomorrow, she will obtain even more support from the fans. Becoming even more famous is something to be happy about, don't you think?" (Coacervate)

"You bastard!!" (Haine)

"But, isn't there a problem stemming from this?" Is what I thought." (Coacervate)

Saying this, Coacervate shrugs his shoulders.

This guy really is good at making every single gesture of his annoying.

"Don't you have an idea about it, Haine-san? About you and the two heroes that you brought here..." (Coacervate)

"What?" (Haine)

"In this stage that I went through the trouble of creating for Celestis-san, isn't there the possibility that hindrances might be stepping in the way?", is what I mean." (Coacervate)

I see.

I don't know what kind of fate brought us to this, but Karen-san and Mirack have ended up being guests in tomorrow's live.

If the Hydra Serpent were to attack that place just as the scenario of Coacervate states, what would happen?

It would obviously not be only be Celestis, those two will definitely participate in the fight as well.

Rather than the duty of a hero, Karen-san's sense of justice would make her protect people no matter if it's the territory of another church. And Mirack who is all 'Karen-san love-love' would no doubt follow without hesitation.

Of course, I will join the fray as well. With my darkness power, I might be of help to them after all.

"In that case—!!" (Haine)

If the Hydra Serpent were to be defeated favorably, the one who will be receiving praises for it would not only be Celestis.

Karen-san and Mirack would also be praised as brave ones.

This is a plan that he created himself in order to raise Celestis' fame alone, and in that plan, someone has mixed in and the merit will end up being distributed, which is probably not amusing for him.

"I see. Such a big monster, it must have taken quite a lot of time and effort. That effort might not be rewarded, and that's why you are flustered now." (Haine)

"I will leave it to your imagination." (Coacervate)

"Then, what are you going to do? Before this thing attacks the live performance...in other words, before the live begins, you will have Karen-san and Mirack leave?" (Haine)

"You are doing quite the ill-natured question there, aren't you? If that happens, the live performance itself would sink. You already know that." (Coacervate)

The expectations of the audience are still rising sky-high with the scheduled appearance of the three heroes after all.

"Then, I will give you an advice. Stop that scenario of yours and just let Celestis concentrate on her live. Have her sing and dance, have her converse with Karen-san and Mirack, and entertain the audience with this. Wouldn't that be plenty enough to get the popularity?" (Haine)

And then, sink this giant sea dragon in the depths of the sea.

"No no, wouldn't that make it way too safe? Don't you think that, since ancient times, strategists are the types that change pinches into chances?" (Coacervate)

"I don't know. Isn't it okay to be safe? Safety is best." (Haine)

"It is okay to just kill the light and fire hero." (Coacervate)

"?!"

The sudden words of Coacervate froze me.

What is the meaning of this?

"This is how the rearranged scenario will go like: 'The live enters the final stage,a giant monster suddenly attacks, and the three heroes face it. In this fierce fight, two heroes die, and one survives -the water hero, Celestis. With the last bit of her strength, she defeats the monster..." (Coacervate)

Saying this much, Coacervate makes a vulgar laugh.

"Don't you think that's a splendid ending! Don't you think this is even more thrilling of a scenario than the original one? With two heroes falling, the fearsomeness of my Hydra Serpent will be deeply etched in them, and Celestis who was able to defeat this fearsome monster will have her fame climb up nonstop! This is truly the definition of changing a pinch into chance! Don't you think so as well, Haine-san?" (Coacervate)

"Don't joke around!!" (Haine)

So he is just going to use Karen-san and Mirack as fodder to feed his own objective?!

I was once again shown the deviousness and slyness of this damn God.

For his own benefit and enjoyment, he would happily step on humans.

Moreover, without dirtying his own hands. And then, he will watch from the shadows the people that are suffering, and chuckle without anyone knowing.

That's the Water God, Coacervate.

"Don't look down on them! There are three heroes, you know! They are the strongest divine power users that were chosen by the churches to go against the monsters. And there's three of them. Yet, you plan on deftly avoiding one of them while defeating the other two. There's no way you can do that!" (Haine)

"I think it is possible, you know? Didn't I tell you? That this is my proud creation." (Coacervate)

...It is true that this one might be trouble.

A special monster that was personally created by the Water God, Coacervate. It rivals the size of the fire cow Phalaris, and it probably has comparable power as well.

The fire cow Phalaris was an enemy that Karen-san and Mirack alone wouldn't have been able to lift a finger against. Even if the numbers were to increase to three, I don't know if that would fill up the difference in power against an enemy on the level of Phalaris.

".....But, in that case, your hero Celestis would also be in danger." (Haine)

"I don't think that will be a problem? After erasing the two hindrances, it is okay to just lose on purpose after all." (Coacervate)

So he is going for a completely fixed game huh. Just how rotten can he get?!

But, this is not over yet!

".....I am here." (Haine)

"That's right, you are here. The Dark God's reincarnation, Haine-san. Within the group of visitors today, you are a special one. If it's the dark matter that you create, even if it's this proud creation of mine, it would probably disappear in an instant." (Coacervate)

That's right. The one who finished the fire cow Phalaris was me.

As long as I am here, I definitely won't let him hurt Karen-san and the others.

"And so, we finally arrive at the main reason of my visit tonight. Can you hear me out?" (Coacervate)

"What is it?" (Haine)

I can't hide the irritation in my voice.

"It is something simple. I have a favor to ask of you. In tomorrow's live, in the fight of the cute heroes and the great sea dragon, can you please remain as an spectator?" (Coacervate)

Chapter 49: Scum of a God

“Spectate, you say?” (Haine)

“That’s right. Can you please remain as a spectator?” (Coacervate)

Coacervate continues speaking.

“If you just watch over without doing anything, my plan is as good as realized, don’t you think? Because in essence, you are the only one who can actually defeat my Hydra Serpent after all.” (Coacervate)

“Do you think I will comply to this?!” (Haine)

“Please do comply. It is a request from a God just like you after all.”
(Coacervate)

“I refuse!!There’s a better way.” (Haine)

Dark matter begins to gush out from both of my arms and swirl.

“Erasing this Great Sea Dragon, right here right now. Along with your disgusting self. That way, there’s no need to worry about you scheming in the shadows, and we can welcome tomorrow’s live in peace!” (Haine)

I knew from the beginning that it would end up like this. Since the moment Coacervate appeared before me, I understood that I would end up fighting him.

Even within the five Gods of Creation, this guy surpasses everyone by lengths and bounds in terms of cowardliness and unpleasantness. From the very beginning, it was impossible to get along peacefully with this guy.

“No no, please wait. You have been quick tempered since always. That’s why you ended up sealed 1,600 years ago, you know?” (Coacervate)

“Like hell I care! Are you prepared, you shit God?! I will erase that body of yours without leaving a single particle behind and return your soul to the God Realm!” (Haine)

This guy’s body seems to be that of a monster mimicking a human, but in this occasion, that’s favourable. Even if I kill him, I won’t have to be burdened by the sensation of being a murderer.

"Good grief. Well then, in order to have you regain your composure, I might have to say the magic words." (Coacervate)

And then, Coacervate said.

"If you rampage here, humans will die, you know?" (Coacervate)

"?!"

"Have you forgotten? This place is just right under the nose of the Water capital, Hydra Ville. And that city has the world's most prominent trading harbor and sightseeing places. In terms of population density, it might be this world's number one. If you were to fight in a place like this, I wonder what will happen?" (Coacervate)

Terrible damage will ensue.

If it turns into a fight, Coacervate will activate the sea monster below us and the two will definitely rampage at the same time. With the intentions of doing the thing I dislike the most. In other words, he would do it with the intentions of destroying Hydra Ville.

I have confidence that I would be able to suppress one before they are able to reach the city, but if it's two at the same time, it is impossible.

On one hand, there's a gigantic monster on the level of the fire cow Phalaris; on the other, the most shrewd God reincarnated as a monster.

Even if I try to keep it to the least amount of damage, there will definitely be casualties appearing.

".....Kugh..." (Haine)

As if showing my decision, the swirl of darkness disappears into nothingness.

"As expected of the Dark God that loves humans more than anything else. It is worthy of admiration, maybe? Well then, I will say it once again. In tomorrow's fight, you will be remaining as a spectator, right?" (Coacervate)

"Why... Why is there the need to kill those two? If it just defeating them, leaving them wounded would be enough, right?" (Haine)

Even I knew I was making a pathetic question.

But I had no room to go against him aside from that.

"It is simple. If those girls die, it might damage the light church and fire church. It is a present state where the five Churches are competing for the low amount of believers. Wouldn't hurt weakening the rivals, right?" (Coacervate)

"You bastard... YOU BASTARD!!" (Haine)

My anger got so piled up that dark matter was leaking out from my hands.

As if telling me to erase that guy.

"Oho, do I need to say it one more time? That this is right under the nose of the Water capital, Hydra Ville." (Coacervate)

With only that, my movements were sealed.

In other words, this guy was closing my choices.

Karen-san and Mirack, or the several thousands of people living in Hydra Ville.

In order to save one side, I would have to abandon the other.

"But, it is exactly because of this that I will firmly promise you this. If you are to accept my proposal, I will not kill the innocent people in tomorrow's attack of the Hydra Serpent, and I will not destroy any buildings. In the live tomorrow, at the stage that will be floating on the sea, the battle stage will be at the sea, right? I have at least thought about that much, probably." (Coacervate)

Is what Coacervate says as he bows reverently.

"Well, that's how it is Haine-san. I would like you to please handle this carefully. There's no need for you to answer. I am satisfied if you simply don't make any moves. But, I would prefer it if you don't have the two heroes leave before the live begins, okay? Just as you said before, the live performance itself will go down the drain, right?" (Coacervate)

"..."

"In the case something like that happens, I wonder who will be taking the responsibility? Please think about it thoroughly, okay? Don't worry, the light hero and the fire hero will most likely accept as well. Their duty is to protect people from monsters. To cast away their lives for that sake can be said to be

their raison d'etre." (Coacervate)

*

And that's how the private talk ended.

That guy...the Water God Coacervate's reincarnated form, Mephistopheles, saw me off and remained at the place where the great sea dragon was. In normal circumstances, he would be keeping an eye on me, but it seems like he judged it was safer to be at the side of the great sea dragon.

The most troubling part for me is two monsters rampaging at the same time. If he leaves its side in poor timing, it might give me a winning opportunity.

In order to not leave that opening, he will most definitely be by its side all the time until the live starts.

...

What should I do?

The Great Sea Dragon and the Water Demon that has the Water God dwelling inside. I can only handle one at a time. If I were to go against them, in the time I am restraining one, the other will rampage at Hydra Ville and kill as many people as possible.

That guy would do something like that. For him, humans are mere toys, moreover, toys that he wouldn't mind breaking.

If I participate in the fight, he would stop this fixed game of his and will have the Hydra Serpent rampage for real. Even if I manage to have Karen-san and the others retreat before the live, it would only rampage in retaliation.

In that point, it hurts that he nailed me down beforehand.

Is there nothing I can do?

A way to overcome this without sacrificing Karen-san, Mirack, and the several thousands of people.

A way to make that shitty human-ridiculing God suffer.

.....

There's that.

*

And so, I appeared before someone.

It was completely late at night, and by the time I arrived, that girl was already in the middle of dreaming.

She was on top of the bed, with a beautiful sleeping figure and letting out cute sounding breaths.

“Hey...wake up.” (Haine)

I mercilessly shook the shoulders of that girl.

“Uungh~~, uuuuh?!”

The moment she woke up, that girl...the Light Church's founder, Yorishiro, got flustered.

“Wawawawawa, Haine-san?! What is it, so late in the night?! I-I-Is this a night raid?! If you were going to do that, you have to tell me beforehand. I also have to prepare myself—!!” (Yorishiro)

“Don't go misunderstanding. I have something to ask of you.” (Haine)

Chapter 50: Backstage Water Priestess

And then, in the next day, at the live venue...

Just as announced, there's a specially set up stage that floats on the sea. The audience had the extravagance of enjoying it all at the specially prepared seats on the sandy beach and the sightseeing boats.

So this is also all a boon of the ethereal civilization huh.

Receiving the shocking guests, the light hero and the fire hero, the venue is super filled with people. It is so successful that they are even taking advantage that it is a sea stage by selling ship seats.

"W-W-What should we do, Mirack-chan! I am beginning to get n-n-n-nervous!!" (Karen)

"C-C-Calm down, Karen! Heroes should show d-d-d-dignity!" (Mirack)

The two, who are beginners at this kind of things, were getting nervous as crazy with the thousands of eyes that will be directed at them soon.

On the other hand, the idol that is the lead in today's performance, Celes-tan-water hero, Celestis-was already on the stage singing and dancing.

This side felt like she was already used to this and her moves were sharp.

After finishing one song, she received the cheers of the fans while returning to the backstage where we are.

"The start is going swimmingly! As I thought, the first song should always be 'wash everything away with water'!" (Celestis)

That's a song name, apparently.

"Thanks for your hard work."

"Ooh, Germana.....wait, eh? It is not Germana?" (Celestis)

The one who said that was me.

Celestis moves her head to both sides as if looking for someone.

"Assistant-chan, do you know where my Germana is? I think you met him

yesterday...you know, his face is the only thing that is pointlessly good-looking, and that on the contrary makes him shady-looking..." (Celestis)

"If you are talking about your Manager-san, it seems like he has some business to attend to and will be arriving late." (Haine)

Her manager, in other words, the Water God Coacervate who is taking the form of a human and mixing in with human society.

That guy is currently cautious of a surprise attack I might make and should be currently on standby above the Hydra Serpent.

"I see. That guy does those kind of things every now and then you know. Well, it is his job so it can't be helped though." (Celestis)

"Have you known him for long?" (Haine)

Celestis was in the middle of changing her costumes for the next song. I think she is taking off her clothes at this moment.

The reason why I said 'think' is because I am not watching. Karen-san is covering my eyes tightly to the point that it might crush my face after all.

"No, I haven't. In the time my idol activities began, the Church introduced him to me. Well, he is supposed to be my overseer, but he is unexpectedly reliable. He has pretty good connections at the top, and gets me a variety of jobs after all. The sea stage this time was also his idea, you know?" (Celestis)

Must be.

Coacervate chose this as the stage for the battle with the Great Sea Dragon after all.

"Celestis-san..." (Haine)

"Hm?"

"How did you begin thinking about doing this idol job? Since when did you think about being an idol while working as a hero?" (Haine)

"Hm? Well, that's a question I am asked a lot in interviews. Even if I look like this, my starting point was as a person who desired to be a hero, you know. Entering the Water Church, training my divine power, and did my best with the

mindset of ‘if I am going to do it, I will aim for the top.’” (Celestis)

But, one day, Celestis thought something: ‘Why should I suffer for the sake of that?’.

The training in the Church was strict, and if it’s for the sake of aiming at the top that’s a hero, more the case. The superiors that were instructing her said the training being painful was a given and that it is actually better if it is painful.

The Celestis in those days was unable to accept it.

Being a hero was a long dream of hers. Shouldn’t s dream be something that is fun and heart racing?

She thought that ‘if I am seriously chasing for that dream, shouldn’t I be having fun with all the painful training and dangerous combat?’.

And yet, she saw her training to become a hero as painful and difficult.

Is that because she herself didn’t have enough guts? Or is it because the hero she is aiming for isn’t the same as the one that the Church denotes? Is that why it is painful?

This sense of discomfort became doubt, and this doubt was steadily chipping away her motivation.

“But you see, one day, I thought this.” (Celestis)

“What?” (Haine)

“There’s no need to mind the eyes of others. It is fine to just become the hero that I envisioned’. Since the time I decided this, the hero training made a complete turn. Because I wanted to do flashy things, I practiced dancing. After defeating monsters, I even trained a finishing pose in order to show the people I saved and my comrades. My superiors were obviously angry at this, but I didn’t stop. Because everything was fun.” (Celestis)

And then, for some mysterious reason, she gained more strength to continue her usual hero training, showed visible signs of growing stronger, and her ability became top-class within the Water Church.

“Then, the previous hero retired, and a selection was made in order to choose the next one, but...it was a clean sweep. The other hero candidates were

nothing to sing about. The hero selection that normally takes a few days, or even months, was over in an instant." (Celestis)

And so, the hero Celestis was born.

"After that, the fighting continued. I didn't want to become a straight-laced hero that was pushed around by the Church; I wanted to become a hero that would make everyone smile. That's why I did a lot of things that had no precedents, and I troubled my surroundings too. And then, the goal I arrived at was an idol..... Assistant-chan." (Celestis)

"Yes?" (Haine)

"I understand what you guys say. I understand that I am a strange hero. But you see, for me, this is the best and most fitting kind of hero. As a hero, it is a given to save people, but I don't want to hold myself back for the sake of that. If I am going to do it, I have to make the people and myself happy, or it would be a lie." (Celestis)

"...Yeah." (Haine)

"That's why, I don't plan to stop being a hero or an idol. I will walk my own path. I have no intentions of handing it over." (Celestis)

"I understa—" (Haine)

"I UNDERSTAND!"

""Eh?""

Celestis and I get surprised by the sudden third party that jumped into our conversation.

That was Karen-san.

Karen-san has been covering my eyes the whole time so that I don't peek at Celestis changing, that's why, it is obvious that the conversation would reach her ears as well.

"I also get it! I became a hero because I wanted to protect the people that were in trouble, but the Light Church only thinks about their own authority all the time... When I talk to those people, I lose confidence in whether what I am doing is correct! But it is okay, right?! It is okay to just do what you want to do,

right?!" (Karen)

"Y-Yeah!" (Celestis)

Celestis had both of her hands held by Karen-san and was flustered.

"I...understand now. Even if our directions are different, if we all see through it as the hero we want to be, the world will turn for the better! Celestis-san! Let's do our best together!!" (Karen)

"T-Thanks...but, uhm..." (Celestis)

That's right. Do you still remember?

Karen-san was covering my eyes in order to not show Celestis who was currently in the middle of changing for the next song.

And that Karen-san was currently holding Celestis' hands with both of her hands.

And so...there's nothing covering my eyes anymore.

In the opened field of vision, what was reflected in my eyes was the very figure of Celestis in her underwear.

Maybe because she sings and dances, the design was unexpectedly simple. And the color of that underwear was...

"Sky blue!" (Haine)

"Kyaaaaaaaaa!!"

If the fans knew of this, I would definitely be killed, so I have to keep silent about this.

Chapter 51: Muddy Water

“Everyone~~, sorry for the wait~~!! The next song will be ‘Water on a heated stone’!!” (Celestis)

As expected of an idol. Even after being peeked changing, she still manages to hide it with steel-like mentality.

And like this, the live had a little accident, but continued favourably, and the audience was incredibly satisfied.

Karen-san and Mirack appeared in the interval of the songs and properly did their guest talk.

And so, I who had shamed the water hero Celestis with my eyes had received the cobra twist punishment of Mirack at the backstage.

Cobra twist is a grappling technique that's passed down in the Ignis Militant corps. They are an organization that's supposed to fight with monsters, and yet, why are they learning grappling moves aimed for humans? Anyways, my back and sides hurt. Also, her boobs are hitting me.

The only moments I am released from this are when Mirack herself has to enter the stage.

The live had entered its final stage, and Karen-san and Mirack were called for the closure, so I was released after a good while.

While stretching my pained body, I watch over the three on the stage from faraway.

“Now then! The guests, Karen-chan and Mirack-chan! Please tell us your impressions of today!” (Celestis)

“Eh! U-Uhm...it was splendid! Please call me again!” (Karen)

“Thanks! Then, we will be having you challenge singing and dancing next time!!” (Celestis)

“Like hell we will!” (Mirack)

The audience gets heated up.

The live can be said to be a success, at the very least, until this point, that is.

"What's left is the last event, right?"

At some point in time, a shadow was at my back.

A thin man whose attitude is so good that it actually makes him suspicious.
The form of the Water God Coacervate mimicking a human.

"So you returned." (Haine)

"Yeah, I thought it was time to. That thing is most likely close to the stage already?" (Coacervate)

Hydra Serpent.

"Now that we have come this far, I thought it would be best to stay at your side now, you see. You remember my request, right?" (Coacervate)

"I know. I won't be getting in the way." (Haine)

With this many people as hostages, I have no choice but to comply.

"...Is it okay to ask one thing?" (Haine)

"Oya, is it something that I can answer?" (Coacervate)

"I spoke with the water hero, Celestis, a while ago. What she is doing looks questionable at first glance, but I think she is a good girl that has a good head on her shoulders. She does her best in her role as a hero, moreover, she is trying to do it while having fun." (Haine)

"Oya oya, did you become a Celes-tan fan too?" (Coacervate)

"It is not only Celestis. Karen-san and Mirack have their own image of a hero and are running towards that objective. This title called hero that is making them do their best, in a sense, might be something splendid." (Haine)

At one point, I thought that heroes may be worthless.

It was in the time the Fire God Nova told me about the reality of this world.

In order to get back the faith that was growing thin, they created monsters themselves, had them attack people, and make the heroes save them. By doing this, the people will recover their reverence towards the hero, the Church that

the hero is related to, and the God that is worshipped by the Church.

I thought that maybe heroes are just tools utilized to dance with that logic.

'Aren't heroes only pitiful humans that are dancing on the palm of the Gods?', I couldn't help but think this way.

But the earnest figure of these girls cleared away those thoughts.

"It doesn't matter if it is on the palms of the Gods or whatever, those girls are doing their best living in the environment they are in. I think that figure of theirs is beautiful." (Haine)

That's what I wanted to say.

When I finished, a 'kusukusukusu' laugh came from my side as a response.

"Kukuku, seriously, you really intend to view humans as sacred no matter what. Well, I love humans too, you know? They are amusing after all."
(Coacervate)

"Amusing?" (Haine)

"Yeah, that's right. Just as you say, humans are earnest. Happiness, satisfaction; desiring those things, humans desperately struggle. That figure of theirs is truly...how to say it...fun? Amusing? Humorous? Pitiful? Pathetic?"
(Coacervate)

"You bastard..." (Haine)

"It is the same for heroes as well, you know? They were simply catalysts in order to gather Prayer Energy from the humans, but my enjoyment ended up getting mixed in it too, you see? It isn't only with Celestis; there were many water heroes before her, but they all worked earnestly without knowing that I was pulling the strings from the shadows, zealously fought, and won."
(Coacervate)

In the past, there must have been times where it was a completely fixed-game from him just like now.

A victory that was planned since the beginning was being given to them without them knowing.

"How laughable was that smile of theirs! Even though it was all part of my plan! Even though I had them win! Without knowing that, they misunderstand that it was because of their own power that they obtained victory. That proud figure of theirs as they bask in false glory, it is truly laughable! No matter how many times I do it, it just doesn't get old. It is truly the best amusement!!"

(Coacervate)

That's the reason why this guy continues staying in the surface world.

For him, humans are not on the level of slaves, they are lower than that -they are toys.

He not only smears mud on the misfortune of people, he even does it on their happiness, taints it, and gloats himself in self-satisfaction.

Utilizing the ethereal movement in order to have the other Gods involved, created threats called monsters, and was making fun of the humans that were fighting them.

That's all I wanted to hear from him.

I was able to reconfirm it.

As I thought, this guy is a piece of shit that plays around with humans.

"...Now then, let's begin my enjoyment of today as well." (Coacervate)

The venue began to get noisy.

At the sea surface faraway, someone had noticed that something was coming out from it. The unrest was spreading to all the spectator seats in the blink of an eye.

"Today's event is even more extravagant than usual. After all, the sacrifice of two comrades will serve as the topping. I wonder if Celestis will cry in sadness? I wonder if she will be able to enjoy the taste of victory? That would be so funny and make it even better, don't you think?" (Coacervate)

The unrest of the venue was beginning to change into chaos.

The identity of what was coming out of the sea...had been made clear after all.

Karen-san, Mirack, and Celestis who were at the stage had noticed this abnormal event, and not only that, they noticed the identity of this abnormality as well.

“Everyone! Everyone please calm down! Please don’t leave from your seats!”
(Celestis)

“Mirack-chan, could that be...!” (Karen)

“Yeah, I didn’t expect a monster would come out in this timing!” (Mirack)

The appearance of a monster.

That truth had been confirmed and the venue falls into panic. But that only lasted for a second.

“Everyone, we are going for an encore!!” (Celestis)

The voice of Celestis reverberated through the whole venue and calmed down the fear and chaos of the people.

“An encore song has never been heard of before. Water hero, Celes-tan, monster destruction performance! Everyone, keep your eyes peeled from your seats, okay?!” (Celestis)

The words of Celestis that were casual yet strong covered the fear of the venue and turned it into heat that was totally opposite of before.

The people knew that, just as they thought, Celestis is indeed a hero.

No matter the danger, as long she is there, there’s no need to tremble. Because this is the city that the water hero protects, Hydra Ville.

Moreover, today there’s 2 who hold the same duty as her.

“Celestis-san! We will also help you out!” (Karen)

“Even if it’s not in our place of jurisdiction, having a monster right in front of us and not doing anything would be a disgrace of my name as a hero! I will be helping want it or not!” (Mirack)

“Fine. But this is my territory. I will be the center, and you girls will be the back dancers, understand?!” (Celestis)

“As long as the center doesn’t disappoint though. I will be witnessing with

these eyes of mine whether or not your skills have dulled with all that singing and dancing of yours!" (Mirack)

The sea surface undulated and finally the Great Sea Dragon appears.

Its large body that can hold 8 heads was also breathtaking.

"Uhioooo! There's so many!!" (Mirack)

"No, that's not it! Look at it carefully! Those sea monsters are all connected to one body. All of those are one. It is a monster with multiple heads!!" (Karen)

Light, fire, water; the three heroes jump from the stage and head towards the enemy.

Until now, it has gone exactly as the scenario of Coacervate.

"Well then, Haine-san, please watch over them from here, okay? Just like you promised." (Coacervate)

"Yeah, I won't move. I won't, that is." (Haine)

It was at that moment...

At the sea, one other big black shadow appeared.

Chapter 52: Battle Ensemble

"[Water Blessing]!"

Celestis makes her divine relic, Miki Moses, flutter and bestows some sort of divine power effect on Karen-san and Mirack.

"Now, with this, you two can walk on the water surface! You can walk up to that octopus-looking sea monster and directly punch it!" (Celestis)

"A blessing skill of the water divine power. I wanted to experience it at least once with this body of mine, but to think the day would actually come."
(Mirack)

"Celestis-san, octopuses have 8 legs, but that sea monster has 8 heads, you know." (Karen)

"Your retort is way too nitpicky!!" (Celestis)

Like this, the three kick the water surface as they draw nearer to the Great Sea Dragon.

On the other hand, the Great Sea Dragon -Hydra Serpent-had already received the order of its master and woken up from its slumber, and was showing its ferociousness that's most likely its real nature without any restraints.

A high-pitched roar, that was not fitting of its outer appearance, travels on the waves and reverberates through all directions.

"Mirack-chan, could this be!!" (Karen)

"Yeah, if it's only based on size, it would be on the level of the fire cow Phalaris. Its strength is most likely on that level as well!!" (Mirack)

The more they approach it, the more overwhelmed they were by its size. Can't be helped.

The Great Sea Dragon's 8 heads turn towards the 3 little preys. Even if they turn 2 heads to each of them, there would still be heads remaining.

"Uhyoooo! This might be my first time fighting against something this big!"

(Celestis)

"That shows your lack of experience, Celestis. We have experience, you know, quite recently!" (Mirack)

On the other side, the venue was noisy with this unexpected event. The officials were suggesting them to take refuge, but there was not a single person who heard them out and stood from their seats.

Everyone believes. In this crisis, their heroes will definitely break through it. By some twist of fate, there were 2 other heroes here as well.

Is there any threat that 3 heroes cannot overcome?

As expected, heroes are the very definition of hope for the people in this world.

"The despair of having their hopes crushed. The expression of the people that have been dyed in that color of despair, don't you think that's also quite the fun and enjoyable moment?"

Coacervate...

This guy that is currently mimicking the form of a human had stood on the stage, that already had no performance going on because the leads had jumped out of it, and was watching the battle that was about to begin at the faraway distance in this big sea.

There was no problem in going up the stage. The live is essentially suspended, so the audience's attention was directed at a different direction.

There were a number of staff members on the stage as well that were watching over the battle that was about to begin while gulping down.

"This tension, feeling it with my body directly, I am now sure of something. This will be the best show. No, maybe it is better to call it an execution show? The execution of the light hero and fire hero, that is." (Coacervate)

"...."

"Haine-san, I am repeating myself here but, don't move, okay? If you go, it would all go down the drain after all. Along with Hydra Ville." (Coacervate)

"Yeah, I know. I won't move." (Haine)

I won't, that is.

At the sea, it was in a stalemate where they were glaring at each other. But this was only the calm before the storm, with just one sign of a 'start', the raging waves of battle will begin to move.

"...Mirack-chan, are you okay? The opponent is water element no matter where you look at it..." (Karen)

"It is the worst affinity against my fire element huh. No problem. I will concentrate on one spot and make it into roasted fish!" (Mirack)

"Don't just try to solve things with fighting spirit, okay? Anyways, we will have the all-purpose light element Karen-chan as our trump card, and I will act as the defense and support. The useless Mirack can run around and attract the attention of a few of those heads, concentrate in being the bait. That's all!" (Celestis)

"You are giving quite the detailed instructions, are you serious?!" (Mirack)

"Why are you snapping when I am getting serious?!" (Celestis)

But those girls probably understand in the bottom of their hearts.

'Even if the three of us perfectly utilize our strengths, it won't be easy to defeat that Great Sea Dragon'.

Unless a miracle occurs or they sacrifice their own lives.

Those girls are probably already hardening their resolve.

I watched over that figure of theirs from the stage. I could only watch over them.

If I participate, the Water God Coacervate will immediately show his true character and slaughter any human on sight.

"I won't move!" (Haine)

That's right, I won't.

Please move in my stead.

“Guardian of Darkness!” (Haine)

Dogon!

That sound became the signal to begin the battle.

It was the sound of something punching the Great Sea Dragon. Moreover, it was a vehement and giant punch. Receiving that, one of the eight heads sunk into the water.

“Eh?!” “Wa?!” “Hah?!”

That punch was not unleashed by Karen-san, Mirack, or Celestis; it was something that had a body several times bigger than them.

A giant shadow that was towering at the back of the Great Sea Dragon.

“What? What is that black giant?!” (Mirack)

“Is that a monster as well?!” (Celestis)

That's right, a black giant.

With a body that doesn't fall short to that of the Great Sea Dragon, it looked down on the sea monster along with Karen-san and the others.

And its body was black; black in its entirety.

That giant, that is being covered wholly in darkness, is what I used a whole night to create. This world's first...

Dark element monster.

Chapter 53: Dark Guardian

“W-W-What is that?!”

The sudden intrusion of another monster. The one who was shocked the most was Coacervate.

Well, that's a given. Things have been going perfectly as he planned until now, but suddenly, an irregularity occurs. Moreover, it is on the level of being able to destroy everything.

“Haine-san! Is this your doing?!” (Coacervate)

“I am not moving~. I am not participating~.” (Haine)

“Nonsense! I can tell by using my God part. That black giant is a mass of dark divine power. In other words, a dark element monster. The only one who can create that is you, the Dark God, isn't that right?!” (Coacervate)

“You're being loud. The people around will hear you.” (Haine)

But the people at our surroundings had their attention taken by the heroes, the Great Sea Dragon, and the mysterious black giant at the sea, so the talk of the others was not entering their ears at all.

That's right. Last night, after the talk with Coacervate, I entered into action immediately, utilized the small flying machine of Karen-san without permission to return to Apollon City, and shook Yorishiro awake to ask: ‘How do I make monsters?’.

Yorishiro is the reincarnation of the Light Goddess Inflation.

I was sealed for 1,600 years, so I don't know how to make monsters, and the only one I could ask about it was her.

The fire cow Phalaris who is wasting away at Muspelheim -the Fire God Nova- is also an option, but asking him would be troublesome in a lot of meanings.

And so, it ended up in me asking Yorishiro.

Maybe because of personal reasons, she is the only one who hasn't created monsters among the five Gods, so there was uneasiness, but well, it somehow

worked.

And so, utilizing the production method that I had just heard of, what came out of it in a hurry was that giant.

For my first time, I would say it came out pretty well.

"To think you would get in the way of my scenario in this way!!" (Coacervate)

"If I caught the back of the underhanded God like this, it was a huge success, maybe?" (Haine)

Monsters are not pseudo-life forms that only exist to attack humans. They move depending on the orders of the God that created them.

I ordered that black giant to 'defeat the Hydra Serpent, don't attack humans', and that guy is loyally following that order and is currently fighting against the Hydra Serpent.

Giant monster vs Giant monster.

Even when looking at this fight from afar, it had incredible intensity.

The black giant was taking advantage of its big body and grabbed 2 of the 8 heads of the Hydra Serpent with both of its hands and tried to yank them off with brute force.

That attack must have been effective. The Hydra Serpent was writhing in pain, and with the remaining 6 heads, it wrapped around the body of the black giant and bites into it with their fangs.

Instead of blood, pitch black darkness came gushing out of those wounds.

"...Looks like your monster isn't that big of a deal. My Hydra Serpent is better." (Coacervate)

Coacervate said this with a relieved tone.

"Obviously so. Monster production needs a decent amount of time and effort. That simple-minded Nova-san took 10 years in order to create the fire cow Phalaris that would serve as its vessel, and took another year to wait for its growth. My Hydra Serpent is also something that took a decent amount of time to create, you know?" (Coacervate)

I understand what he is trying to say.

The black giant I created was a rushed work created in one night.

“Even so, in this short amount of time, you were able to create something of that level. As expected of one of the two poles that stand above the other four basic elements within the six Gods. But you were a bit hasty, maybe? Looks like that impromptu work of yours was unable to defeat my masterpiece.”
(Coacervate)

Just as Coacervate said, the fangs of the sea monster were sinking deeper and deeper, and dark divine power was gushing out.

At this rate, it might be split apart.

“Thanks for the humorous pointless struggle, Haine-san. It was pathetic and worth the watch. Once that impromptu creation of yours is defeated, I will have those girls be—” (Coacervate)

“That guy’s role is not to defeat the Hydra Serpent.” (Haine)

My words made the characteristic tone of Coacervate stop.

I am plenty aware that I wouldn’t be able to defeat that Hydra Serpent with my impromptu monster. But that’s fine. That guy won’t defeat the Hydra Serpent, it shouldn’t defeat it.

The reason why is because that job was already set for someone else.

*

Linking with the senses of the Black Giant, I was able to hear the conversation taking place at the faraway battle.

“Oi, what should we do?!” (Mirack)

“The monsters are fighting? A breakup?” (Celestis)

Karen-san, Mirack, and Celestis who were prepared to face the monster were dumbfounded by the unexpected situation.

“Seriously, what should we do?! I have never seen or heard about a fight between monsters! How do we deal with this?!” (Mirack)

“Should we attack both at once? No, both are giant monsters. Even against

one, who would know if we would be able to defeat it. If we manage this poorly, we might provoke both of them to us. In this situation, we should wait for both to grow exhausted and..." (Celestis)

Everyone was bewildered and were unable to decide on their next action, but...

"[Holy Light Blade]!"

The light sword wave directly hit one of the necks of the Hydra Serpent. It didn't sever through it at once, but water divine power was flowing out from the cut.

"Please attack the sea monster!!" (Karen)

Karen-san says this with her holy sword Saint-George in hand.

"Karen-chan?!" (Celestis)

"Attack the Great Sea Dragon?! Then what are we going to do about that black giant?! Are we going to leave it for later?!" (Mirack)

"The black one is an ally!" (Karen)

""Hah?!!""

The words of Karen-san were throwing the two around.

"What are you saying Karen?! A monster is an ally?! Did you receive some sort of confusion attack?!" (Mirack)

"Monsters attacking each other is something that has never been seen before, but monsters taking the side of humans is something that will never happen!! Get yourself together, light hero! As expected, in this situation we should retreat for now and—" (Celestis)

"No!!" (Karen)

Karen-san roars.

"I can tell. That black giant is probably is something that doesn't align with any common sense we know of. Because that one is most likely...a dark element monster!!" (Karen)

"Dark element?!" (Mirack)

"Wa, what's that?!" (Celestis)

Karen-san who had guessed it correctly received two different reactions.

Mirack who already knew about the hidden God of Creation, the Dark God Entropy, and the one who doesn't know, Celestis.

"...I see, that's interesting. In order to investigate it properly, we would have to defeat that wriggling one first." (Mirack)

"Even Mirack?! What did you two girls understand about this?! But well, it sounds like that plan would have a good reception from the audience, so I will do it too!" (Celestis)

That's right, defeating monsters is not the job of monsters; defeating monsters...is the job of heroes.

Chapter 54: Enthusiastic performance at the big sea

“Could it be... Haine-san, are you planning on having those heroes defeat the Hydra Serpent?” (Coacervate)

“It is already a set future.” (Haine)

I actually hesitated before taking the first step.

Before taking the first step in creating that black giant.

In this current era, monsters are the symbol of the Gods' arrogance, and most of all, the symbol of their deception.

Pseudo-living beings created by the Gods that were about to be forgotten by the development of civilization in order to assert their existence. That's what monsters are.

Even if it's to protect Karen-san and the others from the evil designs of Coacervate, if I end up putting my hands in the creation of monsters as well, wouldn't I be doing the same as what those other Gods did and end up being the same as them?

Wouldn't it make the efforts of those girls that fight by believing in their own objective and power into something pointless?

Karen-san and the other heroes.

It would make me the same as Coacervate who laughs at the earnestness of humans.

I was already on the point that even having a similar area from that God would anger me, but even so, the ones who gave me that hope were those girls.

Katack Mirack, Re Celestis, and Kourin Karen.

Those girls are heroes.

Heroes are the very definition of the tools the Gods use to gather faith.

But those girls are not being dragged by this and continue being heroes in order to fulfill their own objectives.

It has nothing to do with the will of the Gods, it has nothing to do with the will of the Church either.

For the sake of the people, for their own sake; as long as there's they have the will to be heroes, those girls are without doubt heroes.

That truth moved my heart. 'I want to help them', is what my heart wished.

I was simply following those feelings.

Following those feelings, I believe that what I am doing is correct.

"That's why, do your best you three!!" (Haine)

Sadly, the impromptu black giant is not enough to defeat the Hydra Serpent.

That guy can only serve as help.

That's why, you are the ones that have to defeat it.

"You are the ones who have to defeat the monster. The lead role, the center of it, the ones who will connect this world together are you heroes!" (Haine)

"You bastard..." (Coacervate)

Coacervate who was at my side was cursing. For him, this was heading onto an undesirable direction. He probably plans on using another card in order to change it, but...

"Don't move." (Haine)

My pressure made his movements stop.

"Just try making a move. My dark matter clad arm will pierce through your body." (Haine)

"H-Haine-san..." (Coacervate)

"You must have thought you sealed my movements, but that goes both ways. We are already in a standstill." (Haine)

That's why, the ones who will be the defining factor of breaking this standstill will...not be the ones who are here, but the ones who are in the battle that's occurring at another location.

Whether those girls can defeat the Hydra Serpent or not will decide the

winner of this.

It might be tough for you girls alone, but that's the reason why I prepared the black giant.

Utilize that guy and win.

You humans are the ones who have to win.

*

And so, in the crucial battle...

Utilizing the senses of the Black Giant, I was able to tell the current state of affairs.

The Hydra Serpent was being restrained by the Black Giant. In the meantime, the heroes were doing concentrated attacks.

"[Water Rage]!" (Celestis)

From the divine relic of Celestis, a high-pressure water bullet was shot. This easily hit the Hydra Serpent, but it only send a few scales flying, and there was not much effectiveness in it.

"Ah, seriously! The target is so big that I can hit it even with my eyes closed, but it is so big that there's no point even if we hit it! As I thought, if we want to do some decent damage, it has to be the light element, Karen-chan!!" (Celestis)

"Celestis! Provide support. There's something I want to try out!" (Mirack)

"Hah?! What would the fire hero even try here?! You were not blessed with the affinity this time around, you can't be counted as a fighting force! With that taken into account...!" (Celestis)

"Please, Celestis-san!" (Karen)

Karen-san also joins in.

"The ones testing things out will be Mirack-chan and I!" (Karen)

"Let's go, Karen! We have been training like crazy since the fight at the Radona mountain district! It will definitely go smoother than last time! It should have increased in power as well!" (Mirack)

“Yeah, let’s do it! This is the new power of us heroes!” (Karen)

Karen-san and Mirack stick their bodies together and hold hands. Those linked hands were directed at one of the heads of the Hydra Serpent.

As if they were adjusting the aim with a bow.

From inside the linked hands, divine power mixes.

“Light divine power and...” (Karen)

“Fire divine power! Combine the two together!” (Mirack)

““[Divine Fire-Light, Thunder]!””

Lightning was shot out from the two and dances madly as it soars through the sky and hits the Hydra Serpent.

“Gyooooooooo!!!”

The Hydra Serpent screams in pain.

The fire and light combined element ‘thunder’ was dealing quite the damage even to the outside of the Hydra Serpent.

In the first place, the skin was wet with water. Electricity really passes well in that.

“It is working! As I thought, it really is working, Mirack-chan!” (Karen)

“Yeah. Just like in the time with the fire cow Phalaris, it penetrates through the skin and attacks the inside directly! That is the strength of the ‘lightning’ element. Karen! Let’s continue without rest!” (Mirack)

““[Divine Fire-Light, Thunder]!””

Lightning was hitting the eight heads of the Hydra Serpent in order.

And then, each time that occurred, screams that proved the effectiveness of it were being raised.

*

“Impossible! Combined element?!”

Coacervate who was at my side watching over the fight was honestly punched in the guts by the combination of Karen-san and Mirack.

"I don't know about such power!! It is inflicting such effective damage to my Hydra Serpent?!" (Coacervate)

"Weren't you observing the battle we had with the fire cow Phalaris at the Radona mountain district? Even though you know about me, you didn't know about the combined element of those two?" (Haine)

"I only heard about you from Mantle! That damn bitch!!!!" (Coacervate)

What. So he talked about surveillance but it was just him leaving it to others huh.

But thanks to that, he didn't know about the 'lightning' element, and was unable to make any effective countermeasures.

Nice, the path is beginning to open.

Chapter 55: Combined Melody

“Wait wait! What’s that?!” (Celestis)

Celestis raises a clear shout of surprise.

“You combined light and fire to make a new element?! Is that possible?! I have never heard of that. Isn’t that a new breakthrough?!” (Celestis)

“Don’t call it a new breakthrough. This is a new frontier that was made possible by overlapping mine and Karen’s heart.” (Mirack)

Mirack was being blatantly proud.

Moreover, Karen-san says,

“The ‘lightning’ element that came as a result of combining light and fire was done by taking away the weaknesses of the two elements and putting together their strong points. Looking at how much effectiveness it is showing even when the fire element should be originally incredibly weak against the water element monsters makes this point clear.” (Karen)

“Incredible, incredible! It is strong and it is flashy, and the part that there’s the need for two girls to unite also shows aesthetic!! I want to do it too! I feel like my popularity will increase if I do it!” (Celestis)

“Hah?!”

The one who made a conspicuous bitter expression at the ecstatic utterance of Celestis was Mirack.

“This single-minded idol. Don’t just decide things by whether or not it will be popular. You see, combining elements is something that you need to overlap the hearts of the two perfectly in order to even mix the elements. You need to have a long relationship with Karen just like me, and have to understand each other to perfection or—-!” (Mirack)

“If you girls who didn’t get along in the first place can do it, I can do it as well! Leave it to me! I am good at matching the rhythm when dancing with others!” (Celestis)

“Ugh.” (Mirack)

Celestis goes with the flow and takes the hand of Karen who was close.

“Wa?!”

Seeing this, Mirack burns in the flames of jealousy.

“If there’s the need to overlap hearts, maybe it would be better to stick our bodies closer? Wrapping our arms to the waist like this...placing our chests together...ara? Karen-san? Aren’t they pretty big?” (Celestis)

“That’s why I said, didn’t I? That I win.” (Karen)

Looks like Karen wasn’t against the idea.

Surprisingly, I could tell that the divine power of those two were mixing.

The holy sword and the sacred outfit; with the divine power that was amplified by those divine tools, it goes through the linked hands of the two and mix.

But, in that time, the enemy wasn’t just silently watching.

The Hydra Serpent, that had been cooked from the inside by the continuous lightning attacks, had turned a part of its hostility to the heroes and attacks them.

3 of the 8 heads had stopped wrapping around the body of the black giant and attack the heroes.

“This is bad! Karen! And the other one! Run!!” (Mirack)

Mirack shouts, but the two who were concentrating on the technique wouldn’t make it in time to evade it.

“Ripples that glitter on the water surface, break and turn into grains of light...” (Celestis)

“Become a mirror in empty space and confound the enemy...” (Karen)

“”[Mirage]!!””

The heads hit them directly...or at least that’s how it looked like.

The big jaw of the assailing Hydra Serpent looked as if it had chomped Karen-

san and Celestis who were sticking together.

But that wasn't the case.

It looked as if they had been crunched, but it simply cut through the sky.

It appeared as if the two were in between the upper and lower jaw of the Hydra Serpent, but they actually disappeared like mist just before it happened and the Hydra Serpent literally bit on air.

"Wa?! What happened?!" (Mirack)

Seeing this happen from up close, Mirack was also confused.

Moreover, this phenomenon continued occurring. At the surroundings of the Hydra Serpent, several tens of Karen-san and Celestis appeared and encircle it.

Of course, the Hydra Serpent reacted to this and bit on every one of them, but all of its attacks just cut through air and this fake image of them disappeared.

That's right, a fake image.

"Light can't continue straight into the water and defuses into a reflection, and then, shows things that are not there as if they were." (Karen)

"The combined element of light and water is something that utilizes that special characteristic to its very limit 'Mirage'. Can you find the real us from the projections that are all around the area?!" (Celestis)

Several tens of mirror images that have no substance had completely encircled the Hydra Serpent.

No matter how much it bit with that giant jaw, that lack of response was finally affecting its psyche, and even more heads had unwrapped from the Black Giant.

With those increased heads, it was probably aiming to sweep through all the mirror images, but with the decrease in wrapping heads, the Black Giant obviously gets more freedom.

The leg that was able to move kicks one of the heads of the Hydra Serpent with all it had.

“Gyooooooooo!!”

A showy splash of water was raised up.

“Wow, how intense! As expected, you are reliable, black one!” (Celestis)

“Karen! You unfaithful woman! To think you would leave me behind and combine elements with another woman. Is anyone okay as long as you can mix elements with?!” (Mirack)

“And this one doesn’t break character...” (Celestis)

With the illusion of Karen-san and Celestis, the tides had completely turned into their favor.

“Hey, you housewrecker! Now that it has come to this, you and I will be doing it as well! If I just consider you a shared equipment for Karen and I, my heart might be able to hang on!” (Mirack)

“Am I a tool?! Well, fine. It was easier than expected, so it might work with you as well. Hug the she-male!” (Celestis)

Celestis jumps to the direction of Mirack.

Fire and Water element; the phenomenon that occurs with both of these antithetic elements is...

“”[Steam Explosion]!””

The terrifying expansion of air blows away one head of the Hydra Serpent and creates a thunderous sound. It didn’t go as far as blowing it to smithereens, but it is certain that it dealt quite the damage.

“I see. The fire divine power boiled the water divine power and made the steam expand rapidly. With that force, it was able to blow the Hydra Serpent as well. In other words, ‘steam’ element huh.” (Mirack)

“Oh my, what’s this. By mixing the violent fire element, my elegant water element became so brute.” (Celestis)

“I am just making your effeminate water element into a more magnificent one with my fire element.” (Mirack)

At any rate, the combined elements had shown more effectiveness than

expected and were slowly cornering the Hydra Serpent.

It was an unexpected dominance.

My Black Giant restraining it also played a role, but the attacks of the heroes that were using this point to their advantage were also a big factor.

Moreover, it was a successive display of combined elements.

In this battle stage that was filled with things that had happened for the first time in history, the audience in the venue had surpassed the threshold of heated up and gone beyond that.

There was already not a single person in the audience that feared the monster.

They were all excited and admiring the heroes.

Even if it wasn't exactly how it should have gone, it resulted in exactly what you wanted your scenario to do, Water God Coacervate.

Chapter 56: More unreasonable than a natural disaster

“Hey, Coacervate.” (Haine)

At a corner of the audience area that was swirling with heat, I talk to the man that was standing at my side.

“It is the result that you were aiming for. The great efforts of the heroes are making the audience rise up in unison.” (Haine)

Of course, I didn’t say this out of sarcasm.

The scenario he wished for was the sole victory of the hero Celestis. However, in that stage, the three heroes cooperated and even combined their powers into one in order to fight.

Moreover, they are holding the advantage.

The audience is incredibly excited, and in that part, it is just as Coacervate aimed for, but that’s exactly why the part that missed was standing out even more.

I was interested in what reaction Coacervate would show, but he wasn’t saying anything.

He was ignoring me completely.

When I checked to see what was going on, I was surprised. His face was filled with concentrated anger.

“Unforgivable! UNFORGIVABLE!” (Coacervate)

Just where did the usual cool attitude of his go to. Was he the kind of person that was so overwhelmed by emotion just because things didn’t go slightly as planned?

“I am done playing around!! My masterpiece, Hydra Serpent! We are changing the scenario heavily! Release all the power I have given you without a single restrain!!” (Coacervate)

Without a single delay after the order of Coacervate, the Hydra Serpent reacted.

Even from afar, it was clear that the color of its eyes had changed, moreover, it was a ferocious and dangerous color.

“Gyoooooooooo!!”

Thrusting away the Black Giant that was grappling it, the 8 heads were raised to the sky and are swung down into the sea.

“What is it planning on doing?!” (Mirack)

The 8 heads were sunk into the sea and were not moving at all.

But that was definitely not because it had died or because it was tired and was resting; it was clear that this wasn't such a trivial thing like that.

The abnormality was noticed first by the audience.

The people were making a ruckus.

“Oi, what's that?” “The sea is...”

The abnormality occurred at the coast line -at the beach. The waves were drawing back from the sandy beach. That wave was simply drawing back but wasn't returning as it continues backing.

An ebb tide? But the speed it was backing is too fast and unnatural.

As if it were being drawn onto a part of the sea water...

“Could it be...the Hydra Serpent?!” (Haine)

Is it drawing the water with its water divine power?

Because of it, the water level is steadily decreasing.

“Hey...isn't this...bad?!”

This was said by an unknown person somewhere around. The local people of Hydra Ville must know more about the sea than someone like me who was raised at the countryside inside the forest.

“Bad? What is?!” (Haine)

I hurriedly asked.

This person answered.

"Because, you know...it is not the time for an ebb tide, and yet, the water level is drastically decreasing. Aren't those...the signs of a tsunami?"

Tsunami?!

"Moreover, I have never seen the waves draw back this much! At this rate, what will be coming will be a big tsunami that can swallow the whole Hydra Ville!"

Those words made panic run around this time for sure.

This was already on a level that the hope of the heroes and the human heart was unable to manage. The people jumped out from their seats and were running at the opposite direction of the big disaster that was about to assail us.

"Hahahaha! Run run! With those dull legs of you humans, you wouldn't be able to escape from the large tsunami that's coming anyways!" (Coacervate)

There was one person who didn't run away and stayed in place, the Water God Coacervate.

Even if he is mimicking a human, his inside is that of a God, and in the first place, that body of his is that of a water element monster. He is probably staying here because he knows he will be fine even if he receives a direct hit from the tsunami.

I grab the collar of that fiendish God.

"Is this the work of that Hydra Serpent?! That thing is controlling the water level with its water divine power and is creating a tsunami?!" (Haine)

"What else is there aside from that? They got way too confident. They have looked down on this God and have disarrayed my plans way too much. How unamusing. Toys that take away the fun of their owner are not worth playing with anymore." (Coacervate)

"So you are going to destroy the whole city for that?! This is the city where you church is! Are you going to kill your own believers?!" (Haine)

"Is there anything to worry about? Humans have propagated way too much because of the ethereal era. Even if the numbers are reduced a bit, there will

still be a lot more humans left." (Coacervate)

This bastard is saying the same things as Nova!

Are all Gods like this?!

The Hydra Serpent still had its head sunk into the sea and was not moving at all. As if it were gathering power.

And that really must be the case. In order to cause a big tsunami, there's the need to draw the water, and when it has reached its maximum, it will release it all at once.

In that moment, it will be the biggest disaster for Hydra Ville.

"Fuhahahaha! The anger of the Water God is the anger of the sea! My servant, Hydra Serpent, show them the dangers of the sea!! Embody my anger!!" (Coacervate)

Chapter 57: Trinity

“A tsunami is going to occur?! Moreover, a super big one?!”

On the other side, at the faraway sea, they also caught onto the pressing situation. I could tell their agitation via the Black Giant.

The first one to notice this was, as expected, the local here, Celestis.

“That giant sea serpent is drawing the water like crazy! Once it gathers it to its limit, it plans on turning it into a big wave and slam it onto the land!” (Celestis)

“Seriously?! That sea serpent stopped moving suddenly, but to think it was in order to do such a vicious thing!” (Mirack)

“This is not the time to be surprised! If that’s the case, we have to defeat it before it finishes charging at all costs! Mirack-chan, we are using lightning!!” (Karen)

“Okay, let’s do it!” (Mirack)

“Divine F—”

“Wait!!” (Celestis)

The two were about to shoot the lightning, but Celestis stopped them.

“Wait a moment. Even if you defeat it now, it might still be pretty bad.” (Celestis)

“Eh? Why?” (Karen)

“That guy has already gathered quite the amount of water. Even if we defeat it, it is not as if that water will just disappear somewhere. If the divine power that is drawing it disappears, it will simply return to the place it was before, and with a fitting momentum!” (Celestis)

“So it is the same as a prepped arrow. Once it is already pulled, it will fly with the momentum once the pulling force is gone. That guy has already gathered quite the amount of water from its surroundings. With this, it would just be...” (Mirack)

"Then that means, even if we defeat it, the tsunami will still occur?!" (Karen)

The question that was basically a scream from Karen-san made Celestis bite her lips.

"Of course, if we were to defeat it before it finishes gathering the water, we will be able to make the damage equally small. But that water amount is already on the level to destroy the whole coastal area!" (Celestis)

"No way!" (Karen)

The surroundings of the Hydra Serpent had water rising to a level that it was defying gravity and it was in standby practically saying it was already too late.

The Hydra Serpent itself was floating at the top of it as if looking down at the people from high-up.

"At any rate, we have to attack it! If we take even more time, it will increase the damage!!" (Mirack)

"Wait, Mirack-chan! Isn't there some sort of way...in order to completely entrap that tsunami!" (Karen)

The heroes were also in chaos.

As heroes, it was natural that they want to save everyone. However, the situation is not allowing this. If they continue looking for a better solution and waste away the time, the worst scenario will occur.

There's no decision as difficult as this one.

But it is exactly in this kind of situations that you are there for!

"Ah!!"

"What's up, Karen?!" (Mirack)

"The Black...no, the Dark Giant is...!" (Karen)

This is the sole dark element monster that was created directly from this Dark God's hands. Pitch Black Giant, save them once again. Become the bridge that will lead them to complete victory.

[Dark Matter, Set]

Pitch black particles were released from both hands of the Black Giant, moreover, they spread out heavily to the sides.

“This is...the same as Haine-san?!” (Karen)

A large dark matter weir was created at the front of the Hydra Serpent, and its shape was semi-circular as if encircling the target.

Even if a tsunami occurs, we can mitigate part the damage with this.

“It is now! Let’s do it, Mirack-chan, Celestis-san!” (Karen)

“Seriously, I don’t understand even more now, but I have no choice but to ride it! On this big wave!” (Celestis)

“We can stop this big wave?!” (Mirack)

Celestis dishevels her outfit.

“No, we are going to create a wave! [Water Fury]!” (Celestis)

Reacting to the divine power of Celestis, water also begins to gather at the surroundings of Celestis. The quantity is far smaller compared to the Hydra Serpent, but it was plenty enough to make a small wave.

“Grab on, you two! With this, we will be rushing towards that giant eel!!” (Celestis)

“Seriously?! We are seriously going to ride a wave?!” (Mirack)

“Celestis-san, incredible!” (Karen)

Mirack and Karen-san quickly grab the waist and the shoulders to cling onto her and...

“Let’s go!” (Celestis)

The three ride the wave promptly and hurry on.

“Oi! By the way, how are we going to pass that black wall the Black Giant made?!” (Mirack)

“Don’t worry!” (Celestis)

Understanding the intentions of Celestis, I use remote controlling to slant the Black Giant’s posture a little forward, as if it were a hill road.

“Okay, let’s goooo!!” (Celestis)

Celestis and the others get onto the Black Giant’s leg together with the wave, slide till the back, and jump from the head.

As if it were a ramp.

The speed was higher than expected, easily jumped over the dark matter weir, and go even higher than the Hydra Serpent that was at the top of the water mountain.

The only thing left was for it to fall and arrive right on top of the enemy.

“What are we going to do now?! No matter how you think about it, defeating that giant thing is next to impossible!” (Mirack)

“I already know where to aim! The connecting point of that sea monster’s eight heads, the core of it all!” (Celestis)

“I see, it certainly does look like a weak point! And so, how do we attack it?! If it’s in destructive power, it should be mine and Karen’s ‘lightning’ or the ‘steam’ of Celestis?!” (Mirack)

“Everything.” (Karen)

While falling, Karen-san said.

“In order to defeat that giant monster, we have to join all of our forces or it won’t work. Light, fire, water; everything!” (Karen)

“Combining three elements?! Karen-chan, you are a lot more metal than I thought!! I like it! When this battle is over, let’s do a collaboration! At that sea stage!” (Celestis)

“Don’t drag Karen into a weird path! But I agree with the plan! Now then, all that’s left is challenging it!!” (Mirack)

The three girls that were clinging together were falling, and in the moment they came in contact with the target, a light enveloped everything.

Chapter 58: Mahakala

The Hydra Serpent was enveloped by that flash... and was vanished.

I don't know in detail what happened there, but from what I could see with the vision of the Black Giant was the figure of Karen-san thrusting her holy sword Saint-George with the combined divine power of the other two towards the Hydra Serpent.

And then, after that instant, that flash enveloped everything.

The flash that expanded like an explosion had swallowed the Hydra Serpent, and the water divine power that its body was composed of was evaporated without a single trace.

Is that a combined element from light, fire, and water?

My questions had no end, but without giving me time to think of it, the next disaster was released.

The parting present of the Hydra Serpent. The seawater that this guy had gathered was already close to its critical point, and even if it was stopped in the middle of it, it was already clear that it would still be quite the big tsunami.

If that were to arrive at the land just like that, half of Hydra Ville will be swallowed.

That's why, from here on out, this is my job. Mine and this guy's.

Isn't that right, my child, Darkness Giant?

The dark matter weir that was build up largely on both sides was originally not the way dark matter is supposed to be used, but there was no other way around it so it couldn't be helped.

Believe in the power of darkness!

The water and darkness clash.

The dreadful volume of water that was surging forth, and the abnormal pressure that it was creating, was passed onto the body of the giant and even reached to me.

But, like hell I will lose!

Not only Hydra Ville, I won't let it swallow the sea stage either. Everyone will be doing their live performance here tomorrow after all.

Darkness Giant, wring out everything you have!

It doesn't matter if you are a monster, right now, you are this city's guardian!

*

The wave calmed down.

After releasing all of its gathered up fury, it regained its calmness, and the water surface returned to its silently undulating state.

"...Ppuha!" (Karen)

"I thought I would die!!" (Mirack)

"Ooi, are you alive?" (Celestis)

When the sea level calmed down, Karen-san, Mirack, and Celestis showed their faces.

That's great, they were okay.

I was able to confirm the situation with the eyes of the Black Giant.

"When I was swallowed by the wave, I seriously thought I was a goner though." (Mirack)

"It is great that the [Water Embrace] made it in time. With the water divine power, it allows you to breathe underwater. It also protects you from the water pressure to a certain degree." (Celestis)

"At any rate, we were able to defeat it... What about the city?!" (Mirack)

There was no way for the girls, who were being jostled by the raging currents, to confirm the safety of the city in that state.

But...

"If it's the city, it is okay." (Karen)

Karen-san's gaze was directed at me.

Accurately speaking, to the Black Giant that I was borrowing its senses from.

From what I can see, this guy had already utilized every drop of power it had and was in the process of disappearing.

In the first place, it was an impromptu monster that I made in one night, and I even strained it more than expected.

I utilized way too much dark divine power to block the large tsunami, exhausted the divine power that composed its body, and is now unable to maintain its body.

Parts of its body already have holes here and there, and it is a matter of time before it disappears.

Karen-san was gazing at that pitiful figure.

"It protected us until it became this worn-out after all. The city is okay. You did so much for us, so it is impossible it wouldn't work." (Karen)[

And so, the limit came.

The great Dark Giant had finished its duty and was returning to nothingness. Its eyes were directed at the heroes that had fought till the very end.

"...Thanks." (Karen)

Within the fading senses, I clearly heard the voice of Karen-san.

*

"....."

With the vanishing of the Dark Giant, my shared senses with it are gone, and I concentrate on the senses of my own body.

I already have no way of confirming the situation on their side, but it should be fine already.

The danger is already gone. Now we only need to wait for those girls to come back.

And so, I still have one last thing left to do.

"...We won." (Haine)

I said this to the man that was standing still at my side.

Everyone aside from him and me had already run away because of the tsunami uproar. But the heroes won, and when the people hear that the danger is already gone, everyone will be filled with happiness and return.

That's why, I will settle this before they return.

"They have won. Those girls have. And that also means... you lost." (Haine)

Water God, Coacervate; this is the time to settle things.

Chapter 59: Until no traces are left

"It is your lost, Coacervate; and also, it is the victory of those girls." (Haine)
I once again said it.

As if edging it deep into his heart.

"You prepared a monster in order to increase the fame of your own hero, and were planning on doing a fixed-game. By killing the other heroes, you were aiming to increase the fame even more, but you failed in doing that -all of them survived." (Haine)

Karen-san, Mirack, Celestis; the victory of all three.

They jumped out from the palm of your hand.

"Kukuku..." (Coacervate)

"?"

"Kukukukukukuku!!" (Coacervate)

Coacervate suddenly began laughing.

His shoulders were shaking, his throat was shivering, and his whole body was letting out the sounds of laughing.

"I lose, you say? What are you even saying? This was all part of my plan, you know?" (Coacervate)

"What?" (Haine)

"Didn't I tell you from the very beginning? My objective was to have the monster attack the live stage, and have the heroes defeat it. Didn't that get splendidly achieved?" (Coacervate)

Is what Coacervate said with a loud laugh.

As if being proud of himself.

"Of course, there were slight changes in the scenario, you know? However, as long as the results are good, everything is okay. Better yet, Haine-san, your interference made the fight even more exciting, and have made that victory

even more moving. With this, people that had their heart moved will join the Water Church and I will obtain a lot more believers. Really, thank you!”
(Coacervate)

“...”

“Don’t you get it? You did your best to have a clash of wits with me, but even that became profit for me. That means, you were dancing on the palm of my hand as well, right? Not only the humans, even a God was a simple piece in my game board!” (Coacervate)

“...”

“Well, it is true that the achievement will be split to three sides between the light, fire, and water, but even so, it still balanced out in the end, don’t you think? Because Haine-san made it even more exciting after all! Once again, thanks! You might be a business genius, you know?!” (Coacervate)

“...”

“I am looking forward to working with you in the future as well, okay? As partner Gods, that is.” (Coacervate)

I didn’t refute the claims of Coacervate.

Because I thought what he said was mostly correct. In the end, the details simply changed, but the result was not that different from what Coacervate was aiming for.

The only loss he received was the Hydra Serpent he made, but he planned on having Celestis defeat it to begin with. It is indeed just as planned.

Coacervate received no damage.

Everything went as this God -that pisses me off on a fundamental level-wanted. Everything.

That’s how it would make you think, but...

“Even so, you lose, Coacervate.” (Haine)

“Hah? That’s not good, Haine-san. It is unsightly not to accept reality, you know? Fuhahahahaha!” (Coacervate)

"It is true that there was absolutely no losses for you in this time's turmoil. It even brings profit to you. But you still lost." (Haine)

Because...

"You have emotionally accepted your defeat, right?" (Haine)

"Hah?"

The stupid laugh of Coacervate stopped completely.

"You accepted it inside your heart that you have lost. That nothing had gone as you wanted. Your heart understands this completely, and yet, your head doesn't want to admit it. That's why you are lining up excuses from the bits and pieces, and persuading yourself. All you are saying are excuses. You are spitting out lies in order to deceive yourself." (Haine)

"Emotions! Emotionally, you say?! How stupid! The cornered ones always try to go for the spiritual part! I would like you to show more substantial proof than that, you know! Evidence that's actually visible!" (Coacervate)

"Evidence huh." (Haine)

Then, I will say it.

"You...your face is incredibly red, you know?" (Haine)

"Eh?"

That's right. For a while now, the face of Coacervate was completely red like a ripe tomato.

His emotions had swelled so much that it made his blood rise to his head, and that color was visibly shown.

It is not only that.

"For a while now, your eyelids have been twitching, veins are popping from your forehead, you are sweating profusely, and even your nose is dripping. Also, you have been spitting out saliva every time you speak. That's disgusting." (Haine)

"W-Wa?"

Right now his body is that of a monster mimicking the appearance of a

human.

Even so, it really shows emotions well. It is so well made that it is plain visible that his pride was in shambles.

"You great God had your pride wounded because your own scenario was completely destroyed, and are currently filled with rage. In terms of feeling, you have completely lost. The one who knows this the most is your own heart." (Haine)

"Shut up, you damn brat... Aaaaah!!!" (Coacervate)

Coacervate broke.

He stopped mimicking a human and his appearance as a monster is revealed. A smelly half-fish human appeared right in front of me.

"I was being kind here and you guys just got so conceited! You damn country bumpkin that was sleeping for 1,600 years! You lost! You lost 1,600 years ago! A loser shouldn't be talking shit to the winner!!" (Coacervate)

"That's true. I lost 1,600 years ago. And today, you lost." (Haine)

"Shut up, you piece of shit!Understood. I get it already. I admit defeat. A God like me who has eternal life has no need to get a-angry at only o-one defeat! But you see, at the very least, I will be teaching you a lesson for this, Haine-san." (Coacervate)

Ja kin that resounded as both arms of the monster Coacervate had changed into some sort of carapace-kind of scissors.

"I will at least wash this sour stomach by killing you! Because it seems you are quite attached to that human body of yours after all! By destroying it, I will have you taste at least 1/10 of the displeasure I am feeling!" (Coacervate)

"Are you an idiot?" (Haine)

You were too late in admitting your defeat.

At the very least, in the part when Karen-san and the others began utilizing combined elements to turn the tides to their favor, you should have made the Hydra Serpent self-destruct or have it retreat.

But you struggled in vain and even had the Hydra Serpent do something like a tsunami.

As a result, the people had escaped from the stage in fear and the only ones remaining here are now only you and me.

"We were both restraining each other. You, in order to stop me from heading to where Karen-san and the others were; and I, in order to stop you from killing people indiscriminately." (Haine)

And the people are no longer anywhere in our surroundings. The Hydra Serpent is not here anymore either.

In other words, this means...

There's not a single factor that stops me from beating the hell out of this guy.

"Baaagh!!"

My hand that was clad in dark matter had cut in two the crown of the head of the Water Demon Mephistopheles, the water element monster that has the soul of Coacervate.

Dark matter particles penetrate through this cross-section, and destroy the water divine power that composes his body.

"Weak, way too weak." (Haine)

If I knew he was this weak, I should have killed him instantly from the very beginning.

I might have been able to bring him down along with the Hydra Serpent, without giving him the chance to bring harm to the people. I was way too cautious.

"You said it before as well, right? The two poles that stand over the four basic elements within the six Gods of Creation. It seems my drowsiness has not disappeared yet after being sealed for 1,600 years. I completely forgot that your existence is nothing to sneeze at." (Haine)

Like this, the body of the Water Demon Mephistopheles -the Water God, Coacervate-was devoured by the dark matter without leaving a single trace behind.